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BLOOD AND STEEL

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Blood and Steel v11 ch01

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武道狂之詩

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第五十七章 奇材 〇九三
第五十九章 約定 一四三
第五十六章 荊烈 下 〇三九
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卷十一

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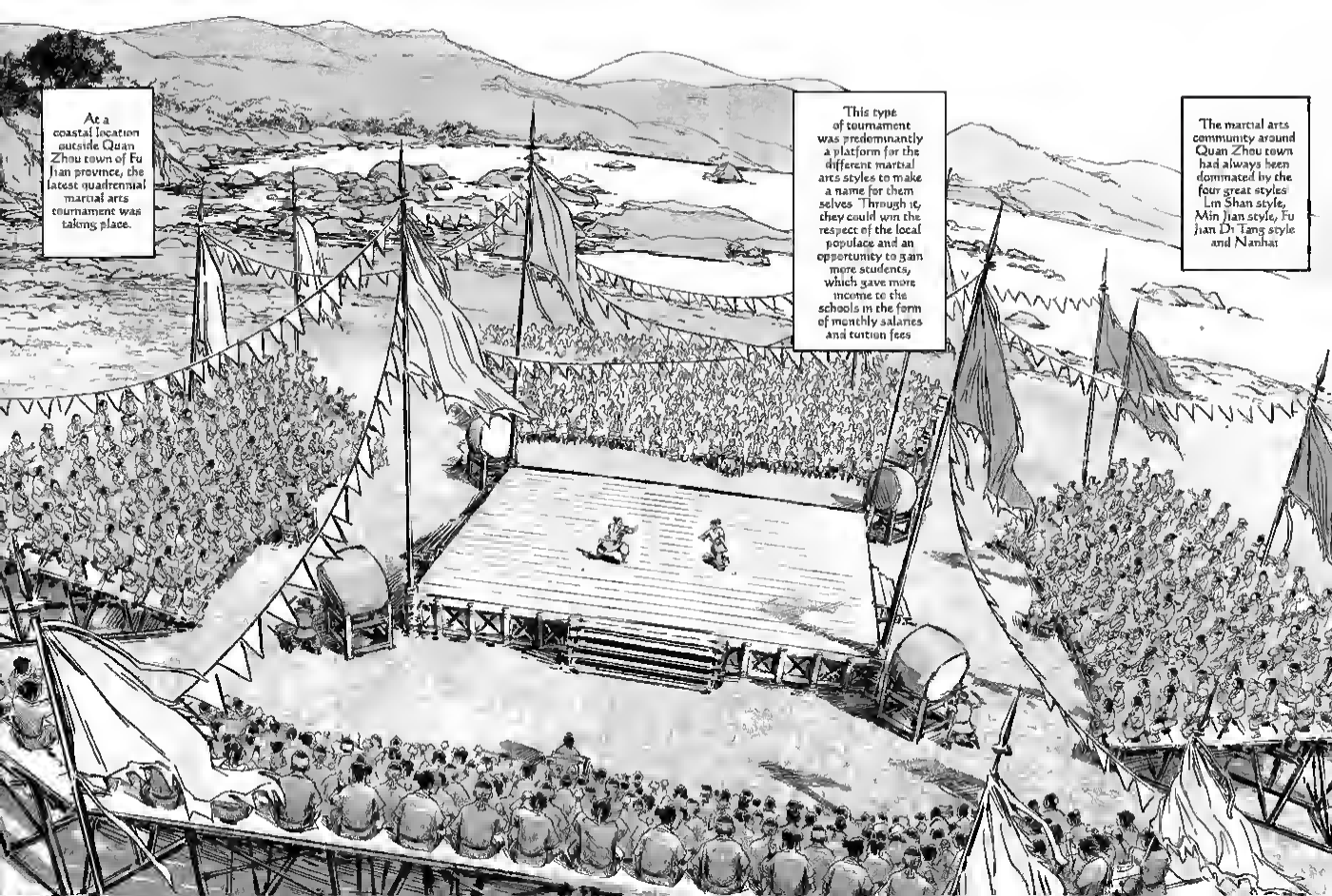
DAMN THAT STUPID BRAT! WHERE THE HELL HAS HE GONE?
SENIOR FEI ALREADY WENT TO LOOK FOR HIM.
FUCK!

南海武館
GO AND GET ME SOME WINE!
Headmaster of Nanhai Huzun style - Jing Zhao


At a coastal location outside Quan Zhou town of Fu Jian province, the latest quadrennial martial arts tournament was taking place.
This type of tournament was predominantly a platform for the different martial arts styles to make a name for themselves. Through it, they could win the respect of the local populace and an opportunity to gain more students, which gave more income to the schools in the form of monthly salaries and tuition fees.
The martial arts community around Quan Zhou town had always been dominated by the four great styles: Lin Shan style, Min Jian style, Fu Jian Di Tang style and Nanhai.

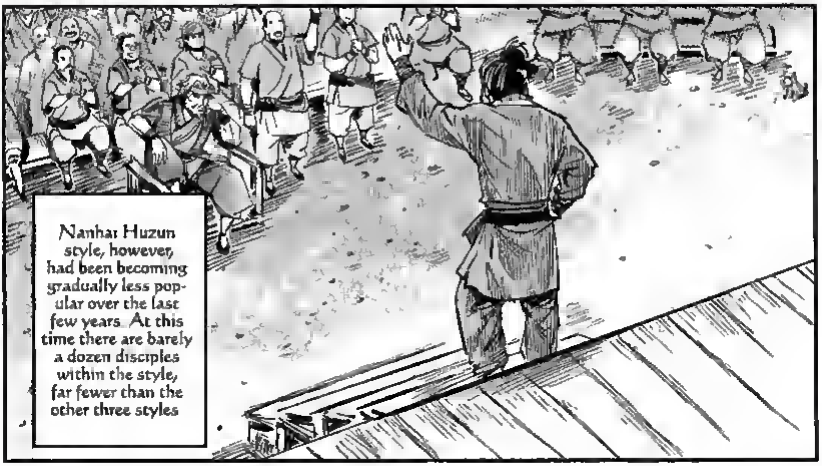
Mm Jiao style
- Zhang Ao
Nanhai Huzun
style - Jing Yue

Although Jing Zhao's own son was a combatant in this bout, he didn't spare a single glance towards the stage
咕咕
He already knew what the outcome would be without even seeing the fight.
Ah

噹
噹
噹
噹
噹

WELL DONE!
NICE!
IDIOT... IF YOU HAVE THE WIN, YOU SHOULD AT FINISH THE FIGHT WITH STYLE.
WHY NOT MAKE HIM FEEL A LITTLE PAIN?
RIGHT!
MIGHT AS WELL CHEER AS LOUD AS WE CAN FOR THIS ONE, WE AREN'T WINNING ANY MORE TODAY.

Headmaster of Min Jiao style - Cheng Bao
This tradition of holding a tournament between the four great styles had a history of over thirty years in Quan Zhou. The ratio of wins to losses had always been fairly equal between the four during this time


Nanhai Huzun style, however, had been becoming gradually less popular over the last few years. At this time there are barely a dozen disciples within the style, far fewer than the other three styles

TAKE THIS AS A TOKEN OF MY APPRECIATION.
THAT WAS A BRILLIANT FALL JUST THEN!

MISTER CHEN, YOU ARE TOO KIND! YOU HAVE MY GRATITUDE!

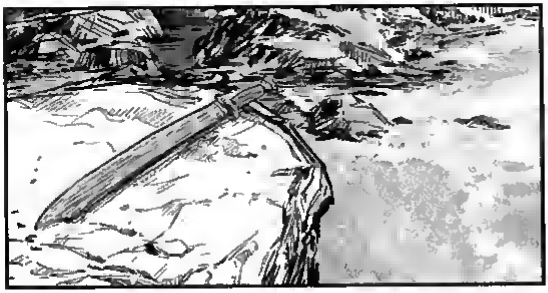
I doubt he got scared and ran off. He probably just overslept again.
About... four more...
HOW MANY MORE BOUTS UNTIL THAT BRAT IS UP?
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
DO YOU WANT US, NANHAI HUZUN STYLE, TO LOSE THE LAST SHREDS OF OUR DIGNITY BECAUSE OF THAT BRAT?
FIND HIM!
During that brief flash of anger, the dominance Jing Zhao once showed when he was called "The Tiger of Rolling Thunder" seemed to have returned to him.

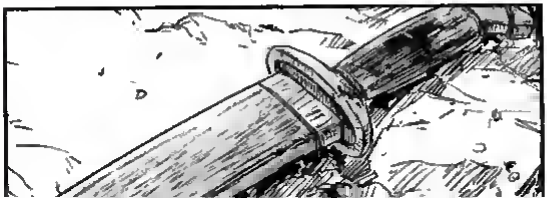
I WILL DRAG HIM ONTO THAT STAGE.
EVEN IF I HAVE TO BREAK BOTH OF HIS LEGS...

LIE!
ARE YOU
HERE?

IS HE NOT HERE...
HE IS USUALLY CURLED UP SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE WHEN HE HAS SOMETHING ON HIS MIND.

STOP MESSING ABOUT, THINGS ARE GOING GO VERY BADLY FOR YOU IF YOU DON'T COME OUT RIGHT NOW.





BLOOD? WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?

I KNEW IT, HE OVERSLEPT AGAIN! GET UP!
GET UP!

LOOK AT YOURSELF!
SUCH CARELESS-NESS. IF I WERE AN ENEMY AND THIS WAS A REAL SWORD, I WOULD HAVE FINISHED YOU BY NOW!
GET UP!
GET UP!
GET UP!

……
AAAAAH!
ドサ

Nanhai Huzun style– Jing Lie
SFX: YAWN!
DON'T ALWAYS USE THE SAME PLACE IF YOU WANT TO HIDE!
I WASN'T HIDING, I JUST WANTED TO TAKE A QUICK NAP... BUT THEN I OVERSLEPT.
I COULDN'T HELP IT, I WAS EXHAUSTED.
UGH, YOU STINK! I THOUGHT YOU WERE TRYING TO GET OUT OF THE FIGHT!
I HAVE BEEN HERE SINCE LAST NIGHT, LOOK!

I TRAINED UNTIL SUNRISE, SWINGING TEN THOUSAND TIMES NON-STOP.

Fei Shi Ying was secretly glad that his junior was not a coward who would run from a fight.

唉
唉

IDIOT! LET ME PATCH YOU UP BEFORE WE GO.

HAVE I MISSED MY BOUT?
NO, YOU CAN STILL MAKE IT IF YOU HURRY BACK NOW!
MASTER WAS THE IDIOT!
He should have been calling him Father or Step-Father, but Jing Zhao had never allowed Jing Lie to address him that way
HE DIDN'T WANT ME, WHAT WAS THE POINT OF ADOPTING ME IN THE FIRST PLACE?

when his travels led him to the shore of Lie Xin*, which was also the origin of Jing Lie's name.
Jing Zhao found Jing Lie as an abandoned child fifteen years ago...
*T/N: Lie Xin, Jing Men Xuan Lie Xin Xiang, also known as "Xian Jing Men".
Jing Zhao's son, Jing Yue, by contrast, had already started to practice the basics by the time he was five.
Jing Lie, despite growing up in the style, was only allowed to begin learning its martial art when he turned eleven
YOU WORRY TOO MUCH.
Yet, it was only Fei Shi Ying who knew the real reason for the headmaster's dislike of his step-son.

It all stemmed back to that day in the training hall when Jing Lie, who was barely two years old, unexpectedly dropped into a stance with a wooden sword
Strictly speaking, it wasn't particularly noteworthy. He just naturally lifted his sword into the optimal striking position.
It was then that Fei Shi Ying saw his senior's, the headmaster's expression darken
At that point he knew for certain, Jing Zhao would never let Jing Lie practise martial arts.
As Jing Lie grew older, he became more and more like a hyperactive monkey.
Whether it was climbing trees, throwing stones, swimming or skipping
it didn't matter if something required strength, balance, knowledge or skill; Jing Lie could always master physical tasks instinctively.

Jing Zhao had named his son Yue* in the hope that he would surpass him one day...
T/N: Yue means to exceed
and the only reason that he adopted Jing Lie was to obtain a reliable subordinate for his son in the future.
Everyone in Nanhai Huzun style knew that Jing Zhao was grooming Jing Yue to become the next headmaster.
常月虎
Even two of the seniors* left the style after becoming discontent with Jing Zhao, leaving Fei Shi Ying as the only remaining senior.
It was Jing Zhao's selfish desires that eventually led to the decline of Nanhai Huzun style. Over the years, over two dozen disciples had abandoned the style.
*Seniors here refers to a previous generation, the same generation as the headmaster.
how could he let his real son be in the shadow of his younger brother who wasn't even related to him by blood?
He had, however, vastly underestimated the value of Fei Shi Ying as a teacher.
Regardless of any other factors, Jing Lie carried the family name, it would cause gossip and suspicion among the outsiders if he wasn't taught any of Huzun style's martial art.
It has only been four years since Jing Zhao reluctantly allowed Jing Lie into the style and subsequently handed responsibility for his training over to his junior, the lacklustre Fei Shi Ying.

STOP DAYDREAMING AND COME WITH ME
OTHERWISE YOU MIGHT REALLY MISS THE FIGHT.
and the child, Jing Lie, as a student.
WHAT ARE YOU UP TO NOW?
THAT ISN'T GOING TO HAPPEN.
I HAVEN'T WARMED UP YET!

咿
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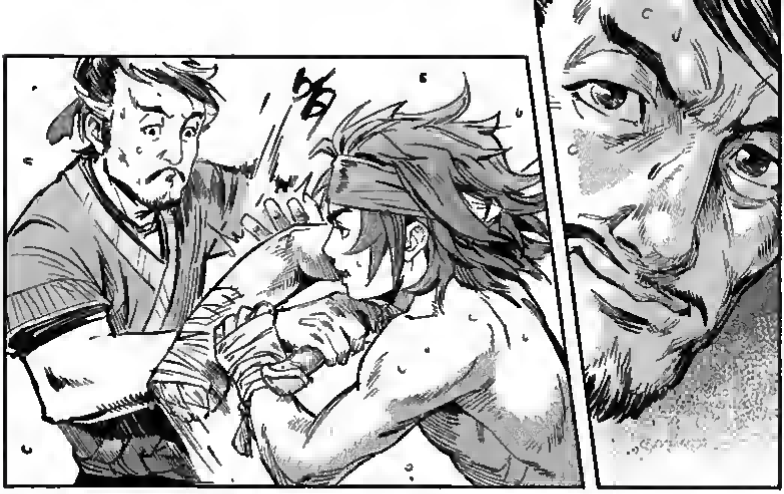
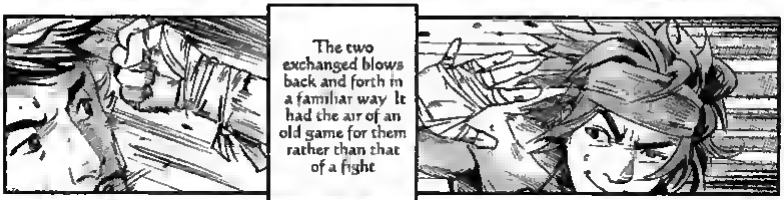
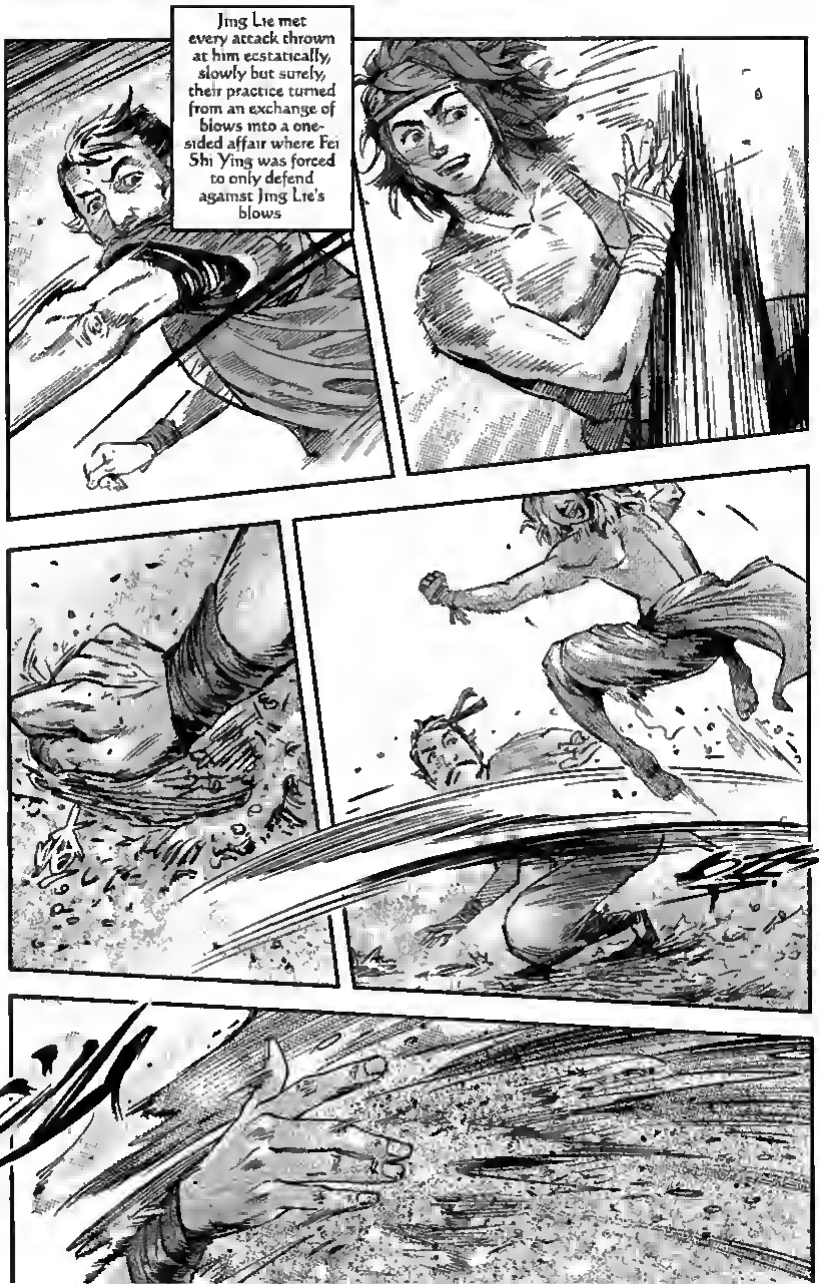



The two exchanged blows back and forth in a familiar way It had the air of an old game for them rather than that of a fight

Knowing his senior's limit, Jing Lie adjusted his speed accordingly.
Fei Shi Ying had already started having difficulties keeping up, even though Jing Lie was not yet fighting at his full strength.
It has been a year and a half since Jing Lie's skills in the martial arts surpassed those of his senior.
Fei Shi Ying knew all too well that his junior was going easy on him, to counter this he changed his tactics to put Jing Lie's reaction speed to the test

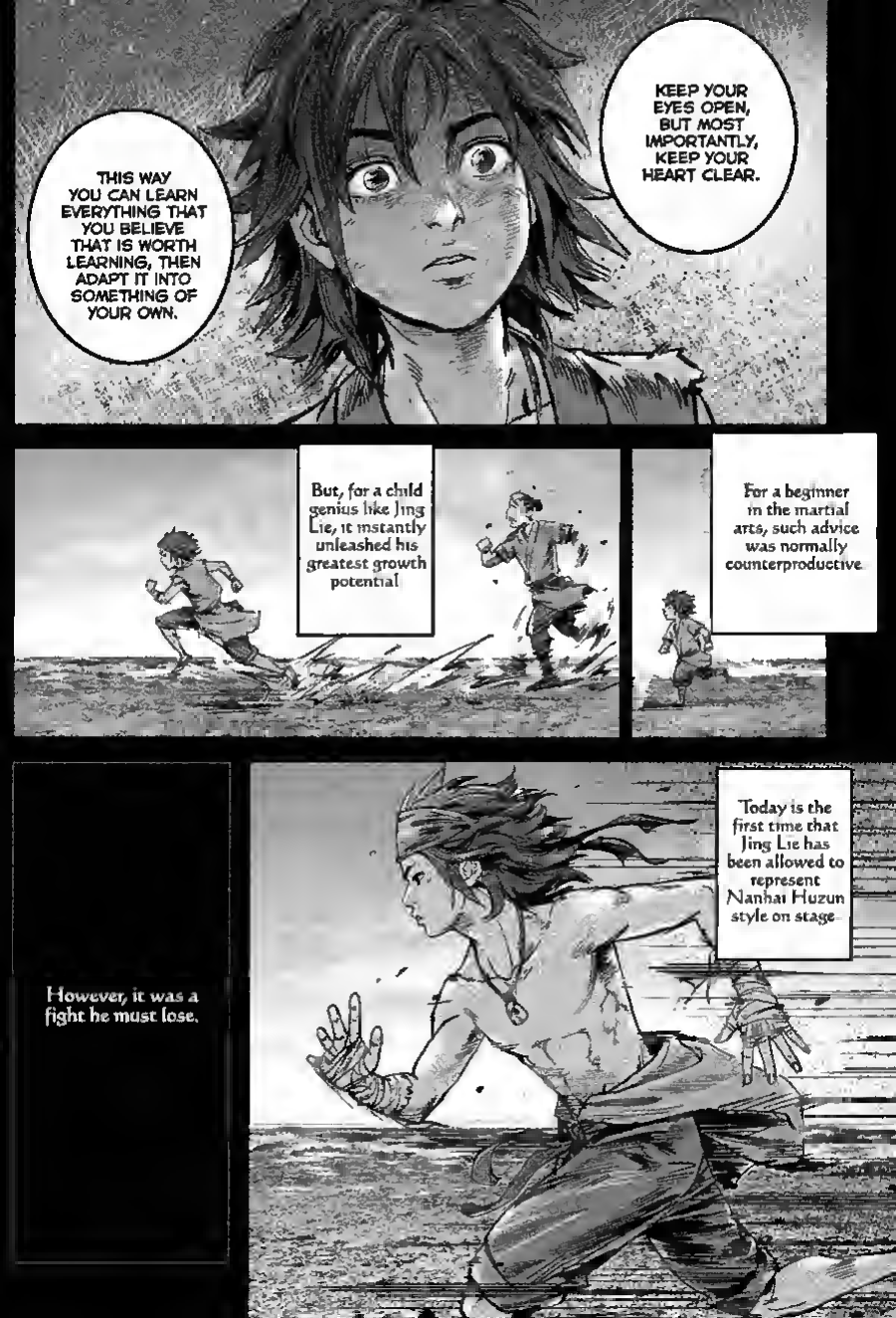

Jing Lie met every attack thrown at him ecstatically, slowly but surely, their practice turned from an exchange of blows into a one-sided affair where Fei Shi Ying was forced to only defend against Jing Lie's blows

WHERE DID HE GO?
!!
HA!

TIME FOR ME TO RETURN THE FAVOUR!
AAAAH!
I'M GOING TO GO AHEAD, OLD MAN!

REMEMBER, ALWAYS SHOW RESTRAINT. DON'T CAUSE ANY TROUBLE, YOU KNOW THE HEADMASTER WILL KICK YOU OUT OF THE STYLE IF YOU DO!
LIE!
As long as you remain a part of it, Huzun style will eventually be yours to carry into the future.
But the truth was, for those not naturally gifted, the likelihood of a miracle was vanishingly small.
Among his peers in the previous generation, Fei Shi Ying was commonly believed to be the weakest. It was almost a miracle that he withstood all the trainin and remained at Huzun style

Through observation and analysis of how others fought or trained, then adaptation of what he saw, he made techniques his own. This training process had often led to the discovery of entirely new techniques.
It was precisely because he had no talent that Fei Shi Ying had to rely more on his eyes and brain than anyone else.
This kind of special training experience however, did not make Fei Shi Ying into a top martial artist.
But as a teacher, and coupled with a student like Jing Lie, the end result was that of something greater than what Jing Zhao could have ever imagined.
DO NOT TRY TO BECOME ANOTHER LIKE ME, OR ANOTHER LIKE YOUR FATHER!
DO NOT TRY TO IMITATE ME...
On the first day they met, Fei Shi Ying told Jing Lie.


KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN, BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY, KEEP YOUR HEART CLEAR.
THIS WAY YOU CAN LEARN EVERYTHING THAT YOU BELIEVE THAT IS WORTH LEARNING, THEN ADAPT IT INTO SOMETHING OF YOUR OWN.
But, for a child genius like Jing Lie, it instantly unleashed his greatest growth potential
For a beginner in the martial arts, such advice was normally counterproductive
Today is the first time that Jing Lie has been allowed to represent Nanhai Huzun style on stage
However, it was a fight he must lose.

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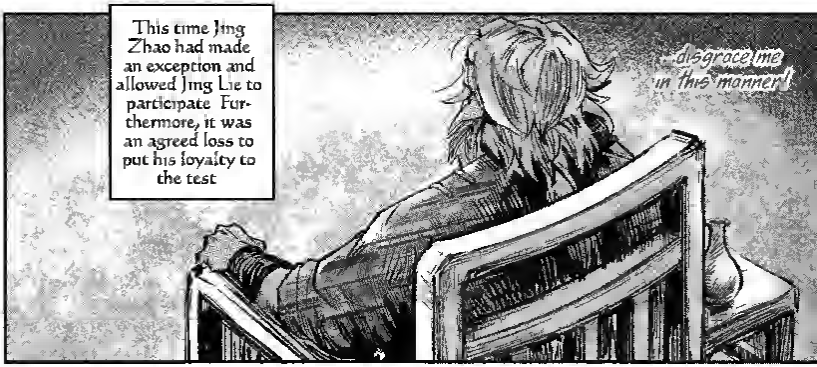
Chapter 56
Jing Lie (Part 2)

Long ago, the Four Great Sects gained their reputation by fighting with their genuine strength in these open challenge contests
After garnering influence as the top in martial arts, they eventually came to an unspoken agreement in the contests to avoid destructive competition or cultivating hostility
Winners of a bout will send a weaker disciple in the next round to let the defeated save face

WHERE IS JING LIE?
Before long, it came to a point where the Four Sects decided on the outcome of every match before it even began
A Contest of Strength had been reduced to a performance to preserve fame and honour
At any rate, most of the spectators are in it for the thrill What would they know of the technicalities?
Damn brat, where the heck are you?
This spring, the Nanhai Huzun Sect has 2 wins and 1 draw. Hence they are only allowed 1 win and 3 losses in the summer contest
Jing Yue has won once today so they must lose the remaining bouts, including Jing Lie's bout.

WHERE'S THE OPPO-NENT?
Ling Shan Sect Head-master, Shi Qin Long
If one side fails to turn up, it's counted as a disqualification not a loss.
GET STARTED!
THE HEAT'S KILLING ME!
Brat, how dare you piss me off in your first match?
ENOUGH WAITING!
I will make sure you get severely pun-ished!

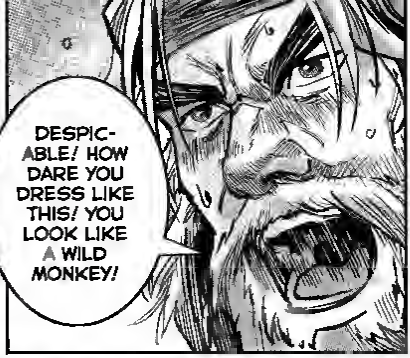
I just have to leave out some techniques when I teach him...
But how dare he...
Our sect is currently facing a talent drought. I had planned to teach him some actual martial arts if he performed well.


This time Jing Zhao had made an exception and allowed Jing Lie to participate. Furthermore, it was an agreed loss to put his loyalty to the test.
...disgrace me in this manner!

JING LIE IS NO LONGER A MEMBER OF OUR NANHAI HUZUN SECT!
ME?!
WEI QIANG, YOU TAKE HIS PLACE.

HE'S HERE!

嗖
嗖


DESPIC-ABLE! HOW DARE YOU DRESS LIKE THIS! YOU LOOK LIKE A WILD MONKEY!

JING LIE IS FINALLY HERE!

DAMN BRAT!

JING LIE! JING LIE...
YOU HAVEN'T SIGNED THE WAIVER OF LIABILITY AGREE-MENT!

T/N: Technique name in Chinese = Sheng Biao (Rope Dart) Tou Ji Fa (Throw)

ALL RIGHT!
YEAH!
THERE, I'VE SIGNED IT!
AREN'T YOU MISSING SOMETHING?
PULLING OFF AN ACT LIKE THIS WILL MAKE THINGS UGLY FOR YOU AFTER THE MATCH.

I'll wipe that smile off your face soon.
QUIT DAWDLING, AND DON YOUR ARMOUR!
This kid... wants a real fight...?
NO NEED! TODAY I'M HERE TO BEAT OTHERS, NOT TO GET BEATEN.
Don't be rash!
Do you want to get kicked out of the sect?
SINCE THIS KID WANTS THE REAL THING, GIVE IT TO HIM!

The boisterous Jing Lie finally stopped smiling
Shi Yao Wu couldn't help feeling nervous from the sudden change from a performance to a real fight

Nan Hai Hei Zun Sen,
Flying Weighted Blade

SPLEN-DID!
HASN'T HE ONLY BEEN PRACTISING IT FOR FOUR YEARS?!
The coordination and strength of Jing Lie's leaping attack captures the essence of Flying Weighted Blade perfectly
However, Pei Shi Ying, Guo Chong Yi and the others were not surprised!
It turns out that they have been sparring with Jing Lie for the past 6 months under Pei's request

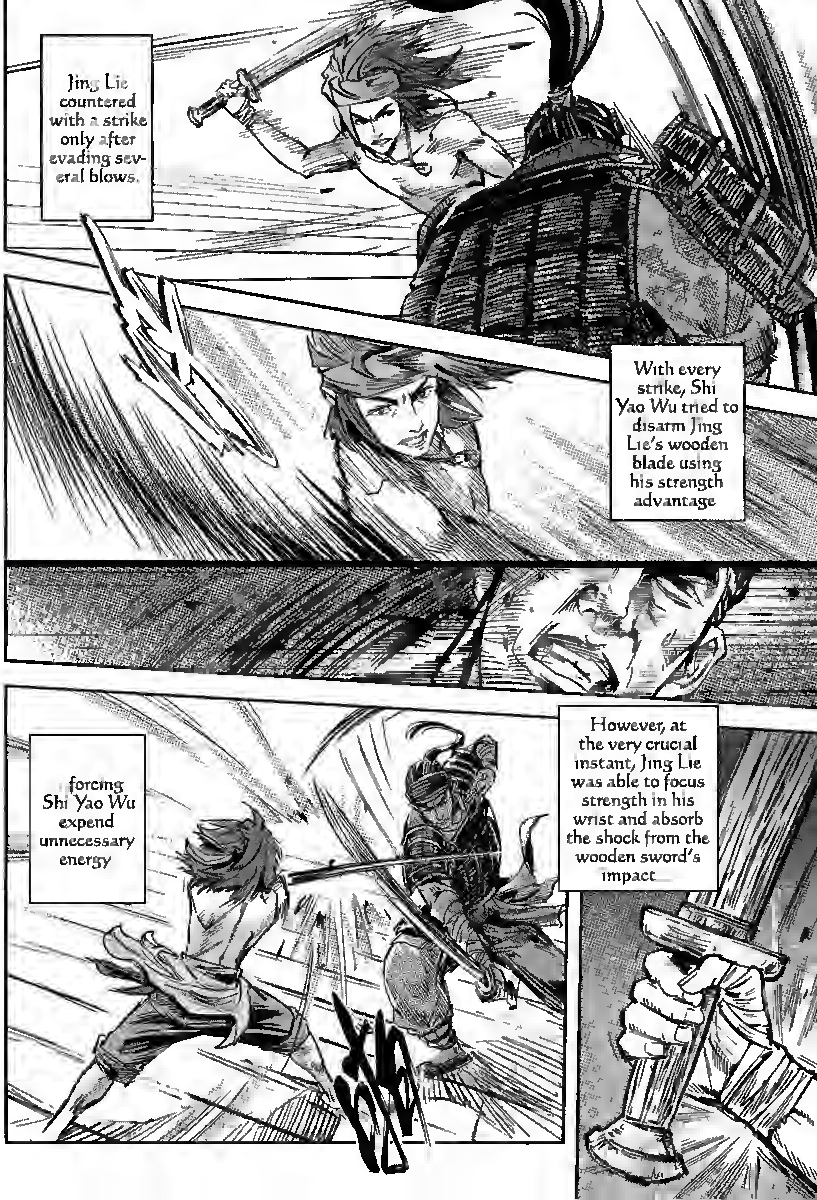
All of them lost
And they are regretting it now...
The kid is fighting for real!
This is bad!

Shi Yao Wu is older with a larger build than Jing Lie, thus his strength is naturally superior

Long Strand
Snow Leaf
Blade

His sluggish movements could easily lead to a disadvantageous, difficult fight
Jing Lie refraining from wearing armour is a calculated move
Fighting with speed and without armour greatly lowers the odds of getting struck by the blade.
Even though it was merely leather armour, the added weight is enough to drain the wearer's stamina in a fight

Naturally, Jing Lie must bear the risk of suffering severe injuries if he were struck.
DAMN MONKEY!
Then again, a fight is always a gamble.
GOOD EYE, JING LIE! YOUR OPPONENT CAN'T TOUCH YOU AT ALL!


Jing Lie countered with a strike only after evading several blows.
With every strike, Shi Yao Wu tried to disarm Jing Lie's wooden blade using his strength advantage
However, at the very crucial instant, Jing Lie was able to focus strength in his wrist and absorb the shock from the wooden sword's impact
forcing Shi Yao Wu expend unnecessary energy

But he was prepared to participate in a performance with a fixed match result so he drank a little before his bout
Shi Yao Wu's martial arts were better than Jing Lie's.
When his fight suddenly became serious forcing a change in disposition, it threw his pace way off.
So it's a battle of attrition...
IT WORKED
CALM DOWN! DON'T PANIC!
After both sides had exchanged several blows, Shi Yao Wu starts breathing with his mouth

But it was too late!
This time I will disarm him!

Jing Lie stopped his strike midway and blocked the incoming attack with his entire might!
On the other hand, Shi Yao Wu's sword was stopped.
Jing Lie's sword was still in his hand.

This is it.

Against a bigger opponent, hitting the major body parts is ineffective.
Jing Lie came up with the strategy of targeting the opponent's joints
He was unable to strike at the vitals due to his short reach
But in order to target the fast-moving hand, he has to strike accurately and come up with a way to stop his opponent
The most effective way is to aim for the furthest and weakest finger of his opponent
Like what he did just now!

In a normal contest, the match is over when a participant is disarmed but Shi Yao Wu will not settle for that!
But this sudden attack was ineffective against the highly vigilant rookie Jing Lie.

The ill-fated Shi Yao Wu's other little finger was broken!
In the heat of the moment, Jing Lie subsequently thrust his sword at Shi Yao Wu!

The one scolding Jing Lie turns out to be Cheng Bao, the Min Jiao Sect headmaster
WHAT THE FUCK!
THAT IS CLEARLY SILVER SCALES FIGHTING WAVES FROM OUR SECT'S CLOUD SWORD STYLE!
WHERE DID HE LEARN IT?!
Before Jing Lie started learning martial arts, he was already watching martial arts tournaments
Learning everything worth learning and taking everything in for himself.

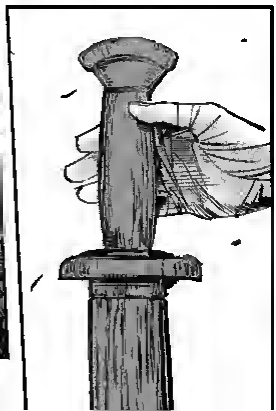
Jing Lie's sword and fist awakened Shi Yao Wu's long dormant warrior soul.
This is the first time Shi Yao Wu fought with his entire might to protect the reputation of the Ling Shan Sect
Jing Lie stopped smiling. His eyes became respectful.
One should not hold back as a form of respect towards an opponent capable of fighting back.

This time it was Meng Xing Gui, the Headmaster of the Fujian Ditang Sect, who jumped up in outrage!
WHAT?!

The Scissor Legs is Ditang Sect's specialty!

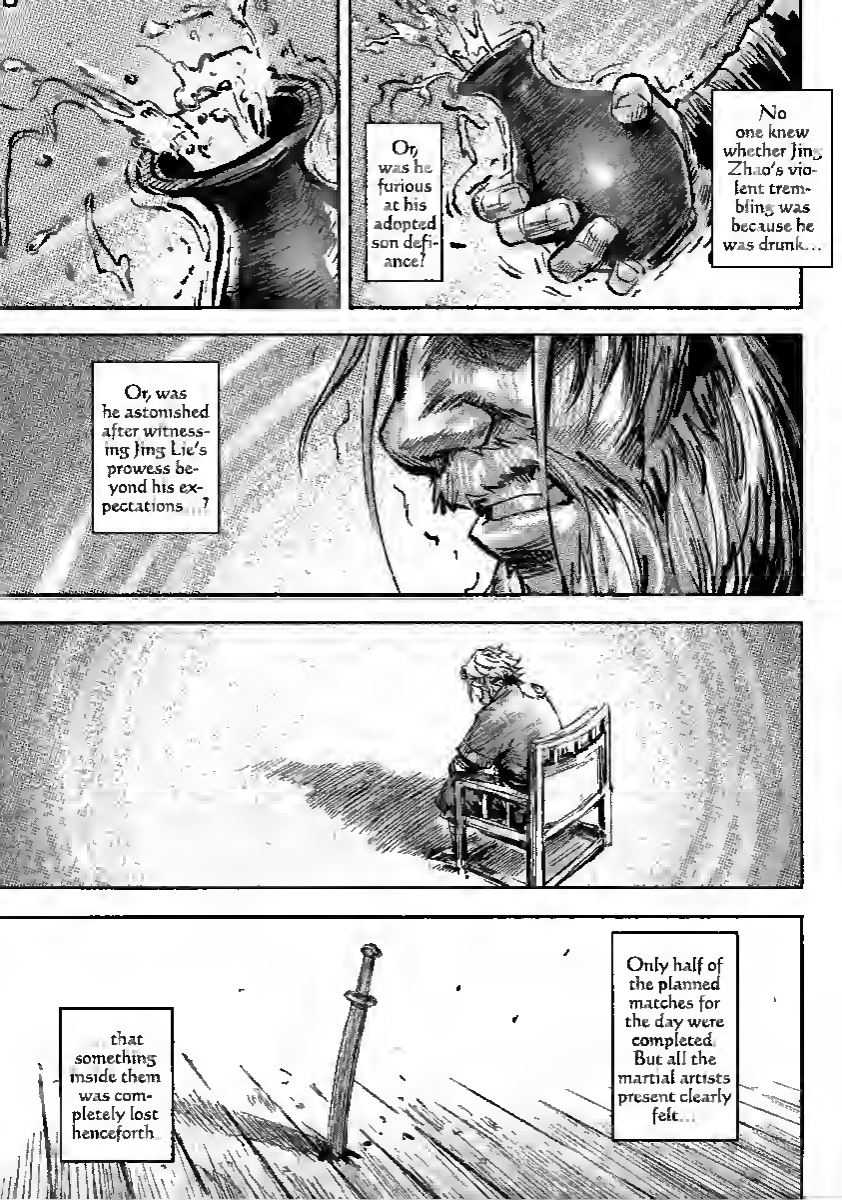
SLA
SLA

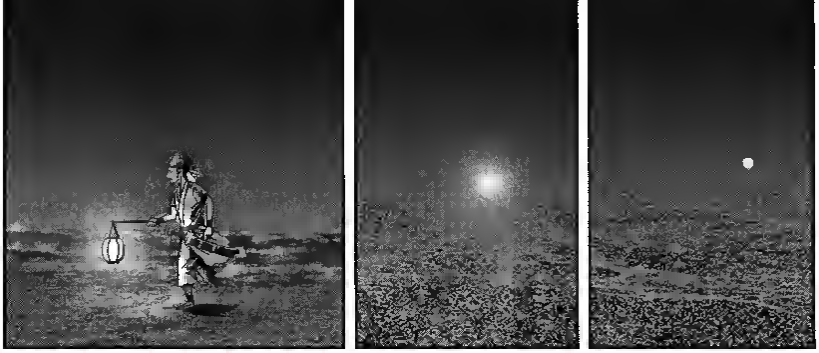
NO!



唰
NANHAI HUZUN SECT'S JING LIE IS THE WINNER!
唰
GOOD FIGHT!
AWE-SOME, NICE!
唰
唰
SPLENDID!
GREAT!
唰
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE FIGHTS WERE THIS EXCITING!
THIS KID FOUGHT EXCEL-LENTLY!
唰

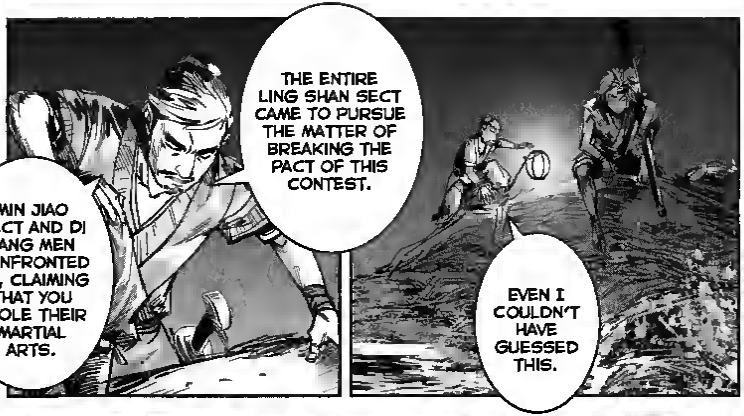
It was as if Jing Lie couldn't hear the over-whelming applause...
The man who picked him up from the rocky beach in Lieyu 15 years ago...
For the first time, he gazed coldly straight at that man...

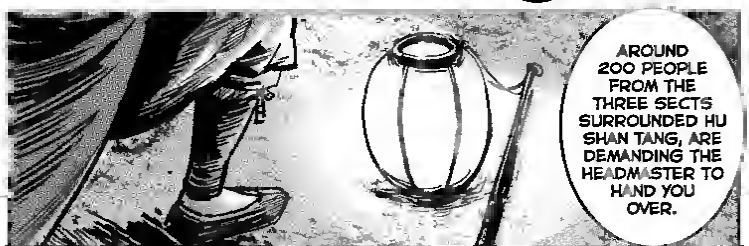

No one knew whether Jing Zhao's violent trembling was because he was drunk...
Or, was he furious at his adopted son defiance?
Or, was he astonished after witnessing Jing Lie's prowess beyond his expectations...?
Only half of the planned matches for the day were completed. But all the martial artists present clearly felt...
...that something inside them was completely lost henceforth.



I'VE SAID IT BEFORE, IF YOU WANT TO HIDE FIND SOMEWHERE ELSE.

LET ME GUESS.
I'VE BEEN EXPELLED FROM NANHAI HUZUN SECT BY MASTER, RIGHT?
OH?
YOU'RE WRONG.


THE ENTIRE LING SHAN SECT CAME TO PURSUE THE MATTER OF BREAKING THE PACT OF THIS CONTEST.
MIN JIAO SECT AND DI TANG MEN CONFRONTED US, CLAIMING THAT YOU STOLE THEIR MARTIAL ARTS.
EVEN I COULDN'T HAVE GUESSED THIS.


AROUND 200 PEOPLE FROM THE THREE SECTS SURROUNDED HU SHAN TANG, ARE DEMANDING THE HEADMASTER TO HAND YOU OVER.

BUT YOUR MASTER NOT ONLY REFUSED...
HE ALSO KOWTOWED TO THE HEADMASTERS OF THE THREE SECTS TO APOLOGIZE AND BEG THEM TO LET YOU OFF.
KOWTOWING!
FOR DECADES, I HAVE NOT SEEN JING ZHAO DO THIS FOR ANYONE.
HE BEGGED THEM TO GIVE YOU A CHANCE AND IN RETURN LET YOU LOSE FIVE MATCHES TO THEIR DISCIPLES OF EACH SECT.
AS LONG AS YOU CAN REMAIN A MARTIAL ARTIST IN QUANZHOU.

WHY?!
WHY DID THAT IDIOT DO THAT?!
DO YOU KNOW WHEN SENIOR JING BECAME A DRUNKARD?
IT WAS WHEN YOU WERE 2 OR 3 YEARS OLD, WHEN HE DECIDED TO STOP YOU FROM LEARNING MARTIAL ARTS.

AT THE END OF THE DAY, YOUR MASTER IS A MARTIAL ARTIST
TO BURY THE TALENTS OF A CHILD...
IT MUST HAVE BROUGHT HIM A FAIR AMOUNT OF SHAME AND GUILT.
AND YOU'VE SHOWN HIM ON THE STAGE TODAY...
...THAT HIS SELFISHNESS IS A MOCKERY TO THE NANHAI HUZUN SECT AND THE WAY OF MARTIAL ARTS.
WHAT HAPPENED IN THE END?

NOT JUST QUANZHOU, BUT ALL OF FU JIAN HAS NO PLACE FOR YOU.
IN THE FUTURE, THEY WILL ATTACK YOU ON SIGHT.
THEY REFUSED. IT IS UNPARDONABLE TO BREAK THE RULES OF THE MARTIAL ARTS WORLD THAT WERE ESTABLISHED FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS.
THEY EVEN SAID...
THAT AS LONG AS YOU'RE EXPELLED, THE THREE SECTS ARE WILLING TO RECONCILE WITH THE HUZUN SECT.
Jing Lie is aware that the Three Sects are angry not because of the defeat, nor because of him secretly learning their martial arts
In reality, they are infuriated that a brat single-handedly exposed their deceit.
BUT... MASTER REJECTED IT?
YES.

IT WILL BE BETTER TO LEAVE FU JIAN FOR NOW.
IN OTHER WORDS...
IF I RETURN TO THE HUZUN SECT, THE THREE GREAT SECTS WILL START A WAR WITH US?
THE THREE GREAT SECTS MUST HAVE SENT PEOPLE TO STAND GUARD AT CERTAIN ROADS.
YOUR SENIORS AND I WILL FIND A WAY TO DISTRACT THEM.
THE WORLD IS BIG ENOUGH. YOU WILL EVENTUALLY FIND A PLACE FOR YOURSELF OR EVEN A BETTER SECT.
EVERYONE IS ENTRUSTING THE FUTURE OF HUZUN SECT TO YOU.
LEAVE EVERYTHING ELSE BEHIND
EVERYONE POOLED IN FOR YOUR TRAVEL EXPENSES.

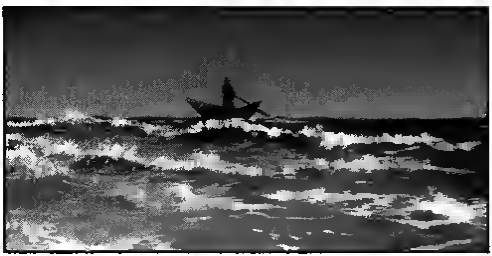
WHAT ELSE ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT?
YOU CAN'T GO BACK. AT LEAST, NOT NOW.
EVEN IN QUANZHOU THE CONFLICTS BETWEEN SECTS ARE THIS BAD.
IT MUST BE THE SAME EVERYWHERE ELSE.
WHAT?
DON'T WORRY.
I NEVER INTENDED TO RETURN TO HUZUN SECT AFTER THE MATCH TODAY.

I CAN'T HIDE MY SKILLS,
AND OTHER SECTS WILL NEVER ACCEPT A STRANGER LIKE ME WITH A MARTIAL ARTS BACKGROUND.
SO I'LL CONTINUE TO PURSUE THE ARTS. THAT IS THE ONLY PATH LEFT FOR ME.
YOU'VE THOUGHT IT ALL OUT ALREADY, HUH?
This disciple is much more mature than Pei Shi Yng expected
BUT IT'S TOO DANGEROUS TO GO OUT TO SEA AT NIGHT IN THIS SMALL BOAT
Since the beginning of the era, a strict ban was enforced on the seas of Fu Jian to deter pirates
There are military strongholds and patrol agencies everywhere Sailing out at night is the only way to go out to sea

IF I'M LUCKY I MIGHT CHANCE UPON A FOREIGN MERCHANT SHIP TOMORROW AFTERNOON.
IF NOT, THEN I MIGHT RUN INTO PIRATES.
COME ON, THROW IT OVER.

Jing Lie knows that this sword was passed down to Pei Shi Ying from his ancestor who was a general. It was once used to slay pirates and accomplish various feats.
SENIOR, THIS SWORD... IS TOO VALUABLE...
SENIOR...
IF YOU REALLY ENCOUNTER PIRATES TAKE THEM ALONG WITH YOU TO THEIR GRAVES WITH THAT.

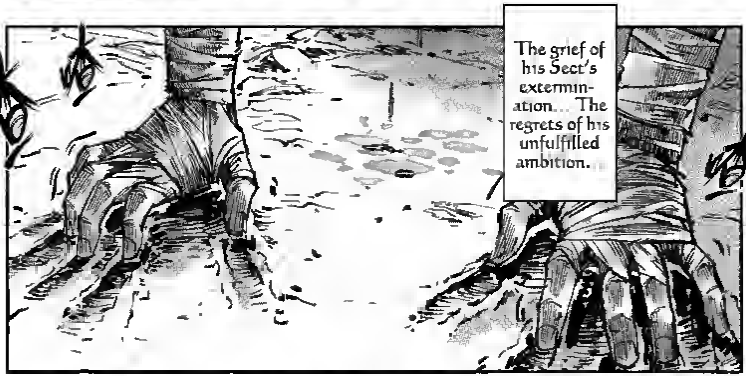
That night Jing Lie decided to repay his senior's kindness by adopting a part of Pei Shi Ying's surname into his own name.



T/N His original name was 荆烈 and he added 衣 from 裴 to his name. Thus his new name becomes 荆裂 Pronunciation remains unchanged

And obliterated Nanhai Huzun, Ling Shan and Fu Jian Ditang while Min Jiao surrendered.
Four years after Jing Lie left, Wudang's Assistant Headmaster, Shi Xing Hao, led their Fu Jian expeditionary force to Quanzhou...
Jing Zhao, Pei Shi Ying and all of the Nanhai Huzun disciples perished.
Five years later, Jing Lie came back to the Central Plain on a Satsuma Trading Ship and returned to Quanzhou by land
And saw his Master and Senior's graves.

But upon seeing the row of graves, Jing Lie crumbled and fell to his knees
After wandering in foreign lands for 9 years, he thought his feelings towards his Sect had faded away...


The grief of his Sect's extermination... The regrets of his unfulfilled ambition...

But an equally strong feeling overwhelmed his sorrows...

It was a surge of excitement enough to make one shiver
A great mountain known as the Wudang awaited his challenge.

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Manhua by 夢馬工作室 > Unicorn Studios
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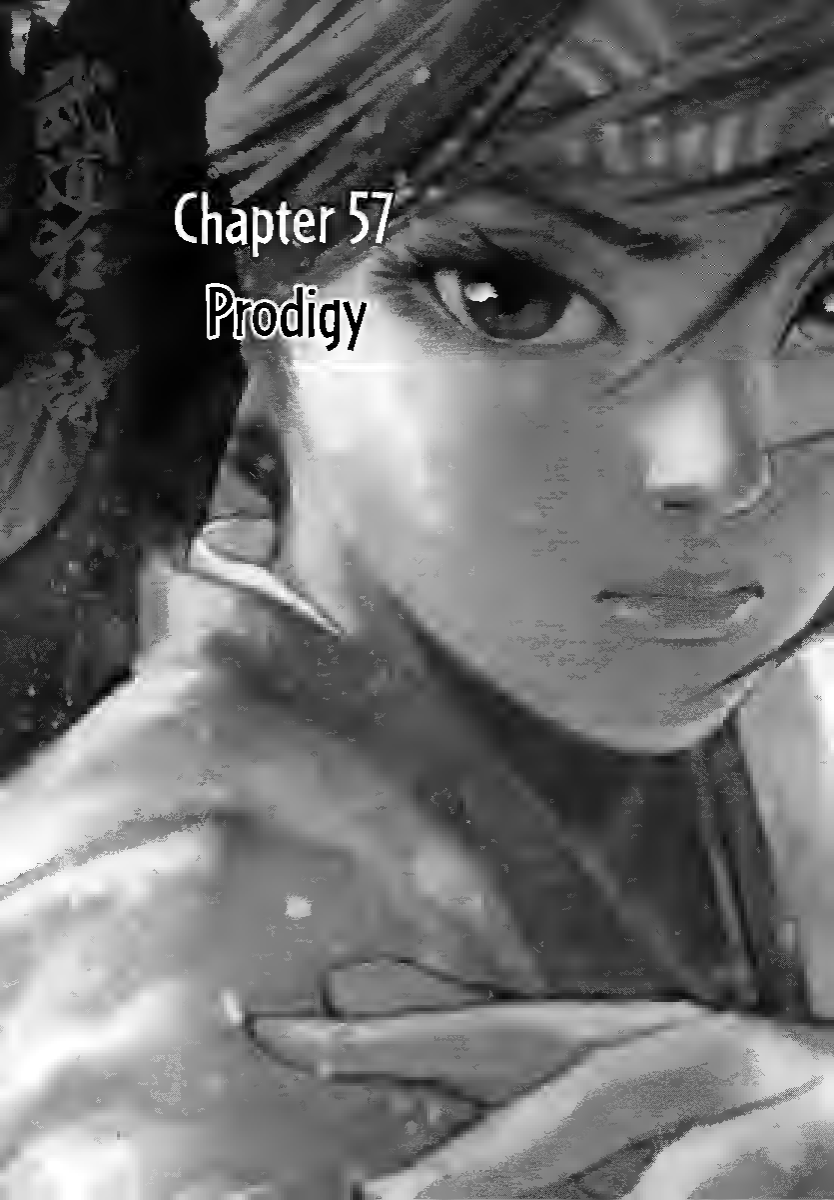

Chapter 57
Prodigy

Yan Heng and Hu Linglan were struggling in their fight against Jiao Hong Ye and Chen Dai Xiu respectively

Xi Xiaoyan took the chance to back away when Jing Lie evaded his spear attack

After much effort, Xi Xiaoyan fmally re-gained the distance to launch his special attack!
I CAN'T LET HIM USE THAT ATTACK AGAIN!

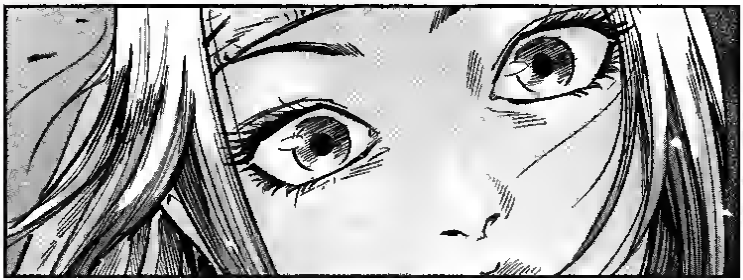
Li Si struck with his spear once agam

Jing Lie took a risk,
And used the spear as leverage to leap forward

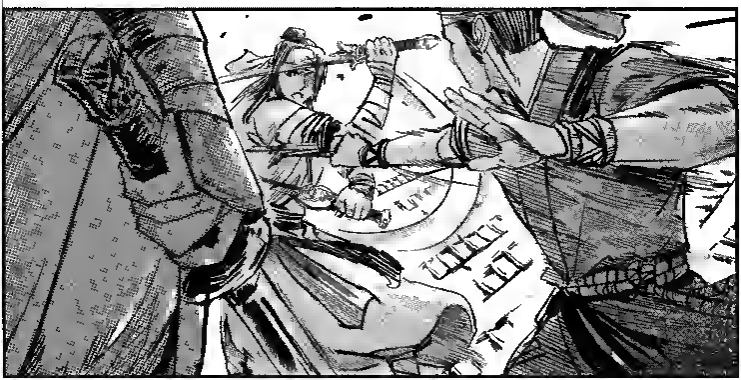
Charging with astounding speed, he forced Xi Xiaoyan to defend!
Jing Lie managed to prevent another attack from the Yangji blade.

But the threat was far from over.

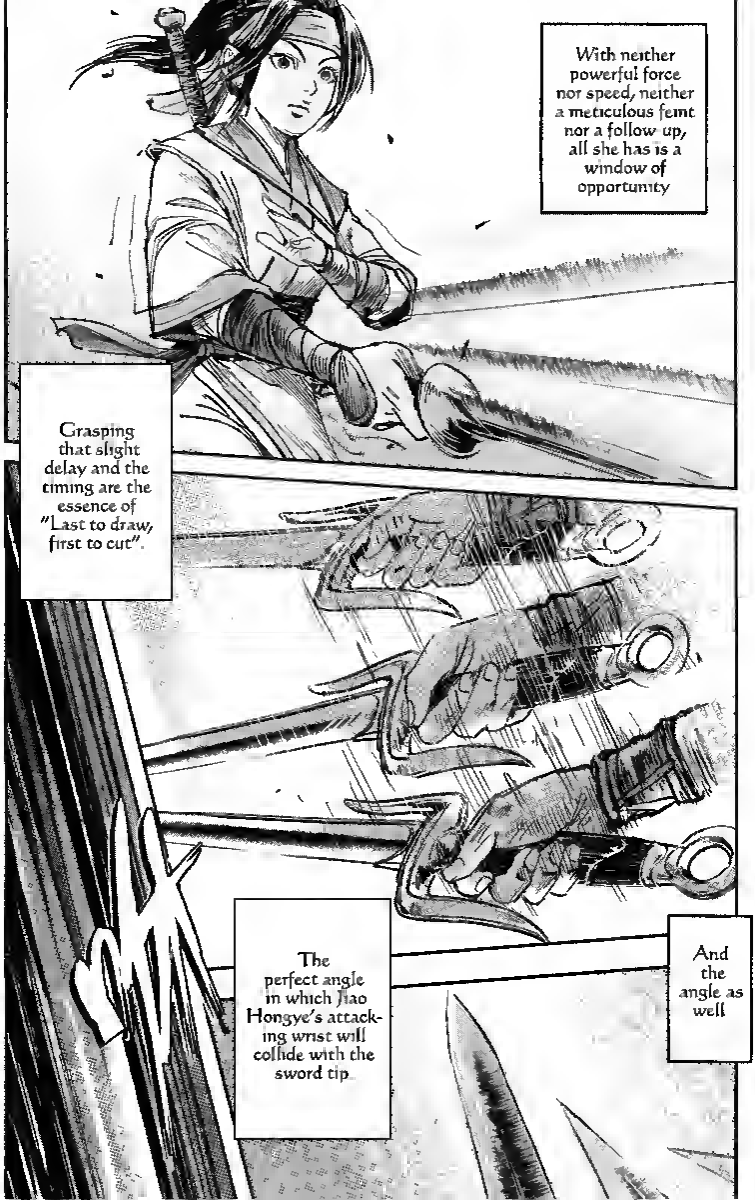
Tong Jing who was usually short-tempered became silent in the midst of her comrades in crisis.



She saw clearly the way Yao Lianzhou defeated a Xinyi Style disciple using the finest moves
Due to a strange turn in events, martial arts beyond her imagination unfolds before her eyes,
And connects to something deep within her heart



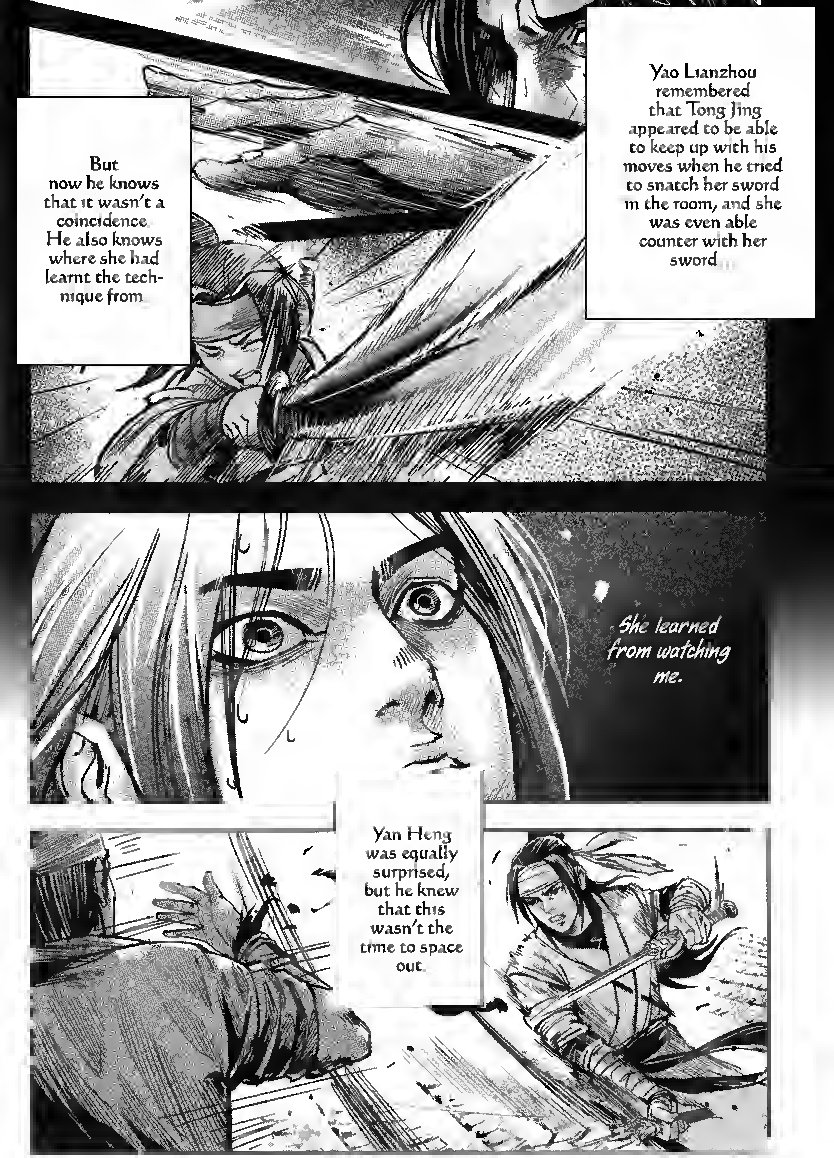
Jiao Hongye paid no attention to this young lady, merely swinging his sword to force her aside so that he can focus on attacking Yan Heng.
Tong Jing's techniques are mediocre, nothing more than the basic sword moves she learnt from the average martial art masters long ago


With neither powerful force nor speed, neither a meticulous feint nor a follow up, all she has is a window of opportunity
Grasping that slight delay and the timing are the essence of "Last to draw, first to cut".
The perfect angle in which Jiao Hongye's attacking wrist will collide with the sword tip
And the angle as well

All who stand in your way are enemies. Kill them without restraint.
Jiao Hongye's negligence
was a dire mistake.
He ignored Wudang's second commandment.
But it was too late.

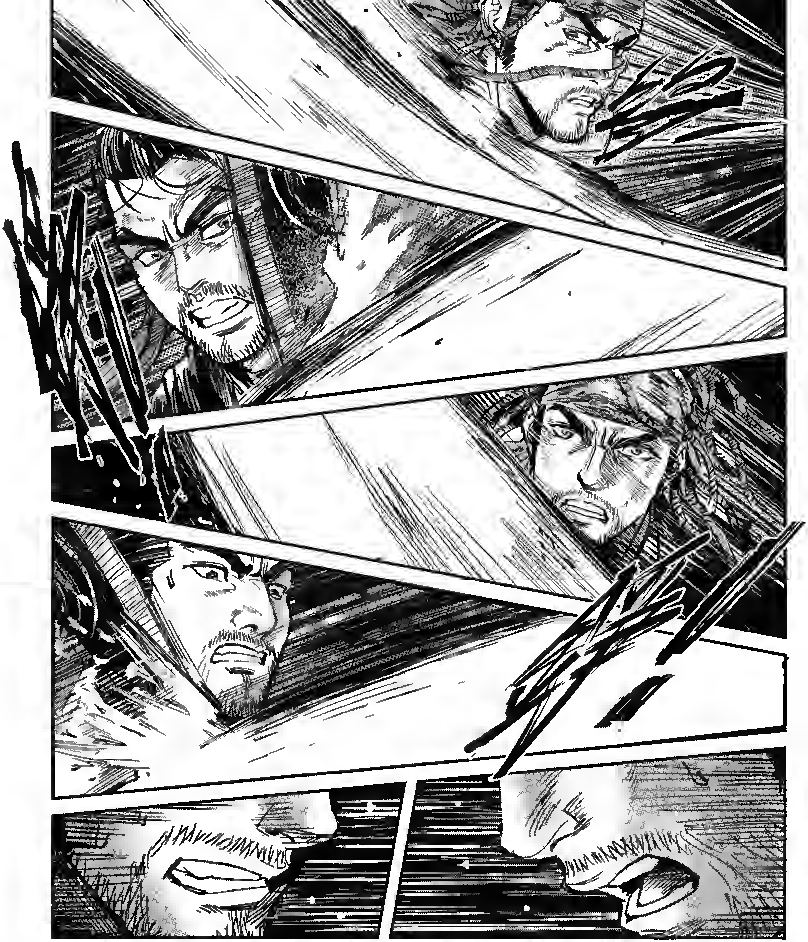
Tong Jing was surprised, not just because she executed the "Pulse Sever" technique, but for the first time since she stepped into the martial arts world, she inflicted a wound on her opponent
That excitement was the same as what Yan Heng felt when he defeated Ghost Blade Chen.
WHAT!
Only few present were able to grasp the details of that sword technique and were in awe.

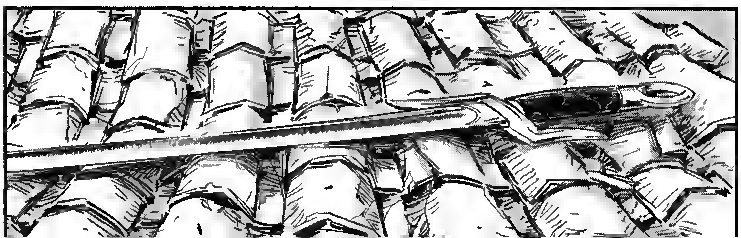
The most astonished among all those present were the practitioners of the Wudang sword
...is the secret "Chasing Form Pulse Sever" from "Wudang Form Sword" of the greatest "Wudang Four Sword Techniques"
Tong Jing's attack may be lacking in force but her skillful grasp on the angle and timing which are vital to the strike...


But now he knows that it wasn't a coincidence. He also knows where she had learnt the technique from.
Yao Lianzhou remembered that Tong Jing appeared to be able to keep up with his moves when he tried to snatch her sword in the room, and she was even able counter with her sword...
She learned from watching me.
Yan Heng was equally surprised, but he knew that this wasn't the time to space out.

Li Dong had taken aim to strike Jing Lie's back with his spear again, but hearing the sound of a sword slicing through air behind him, he retracted his spear to defend!

Yan Heng took the opportunity to drive off Li Dong, thus protecting Jing Lie's back.
Without the threat from Sash Spear from behind, Jing Lie's spirit rose greatly.

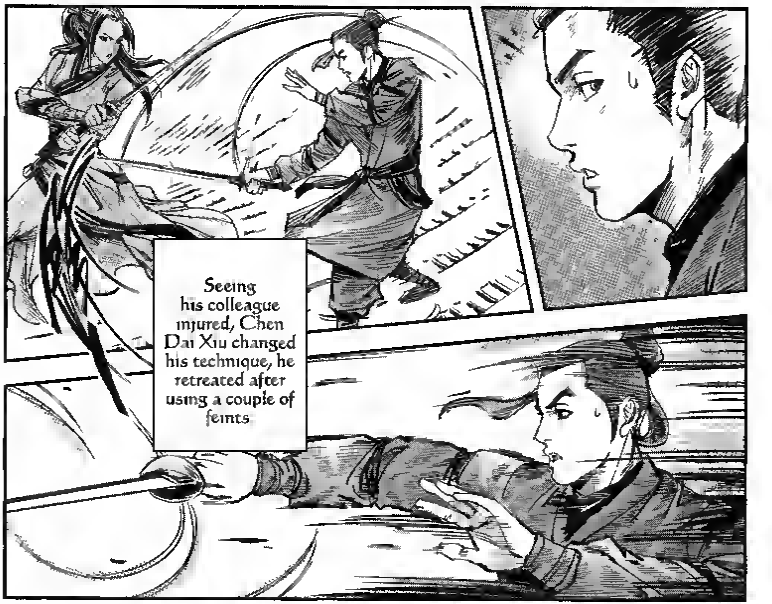




Jiao Hongye lost the sword bestowed by the Headmaster and felt that he had disgraced Wudang.
His sword-wielding right hand was injured. Although the severity has yet to be known, his career as a swordsman is as good as over.
BITCH!

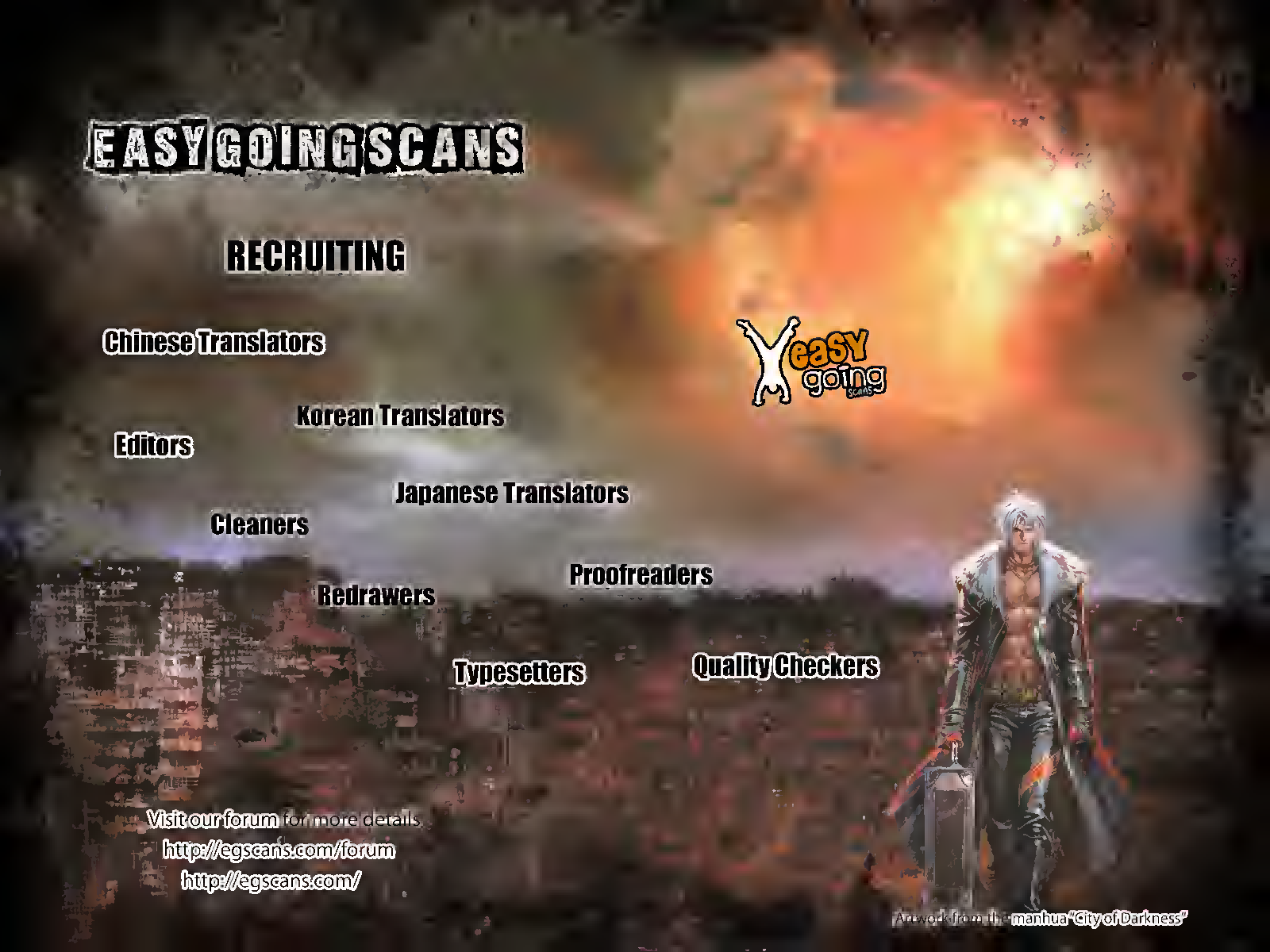
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
YES...

The gravely injured Hao Hong Ye held a special significance Wudang swordsmen can be defeated!


Seeing his colleague injured, Chen Dai Xiu changed his technique, he retreated after using a couple of feints

Li Dong was of the same mind and retreated to provide support
Killing the "Hunter" is important but not more than the safety of their colleague
Hu Lingfan and Yan Heng had only wanted to provide support for Jing Lie so they did not pursue those three
Meanwhile on the rooftop, only two are still in battle

The distance between them now shorter, they are engaged in a close combat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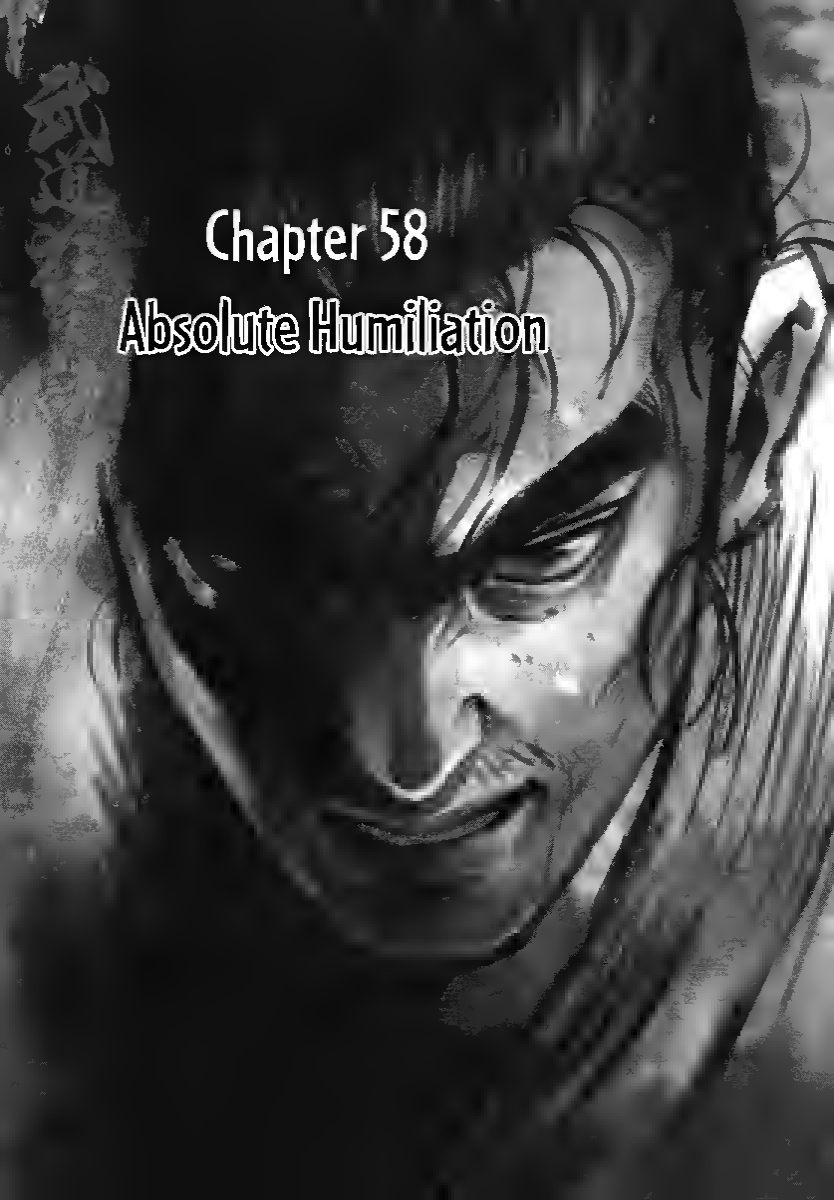

Chapter 58
Absolute Humiliation

The two of them must occupy their opponent's blade at all times, otherwise any swipe or trail of the edge could be fatal

Dong Sanqiao had always been proud of his quick and close Bridge Fists technique, but watching this exchange made him feel ashamed.
Jing Lie and Xi Xiaoyan's intense close combat left no flaw to be exploited. They could rely only on sensing the opponent's moves through Bridge Hands and instinct born from experience to break away.
*TN: SOUTHERN STYLE TECHNIQUE HELPING HEAVILY ON FOREARMS.

BRILLIANT...
The combatants had become almost conjoined in their grappling Friend and foe alike had no way to interfere and could only watch from the sidelines

The situation had turned into two swordsmen facing off in single combat. Victory depended on the outcome of this battle

Xi Xiaoyan used his strength and rigidity to overwhelm Jing Lie.
But Jing Lie was not inferior in terms of form or strength

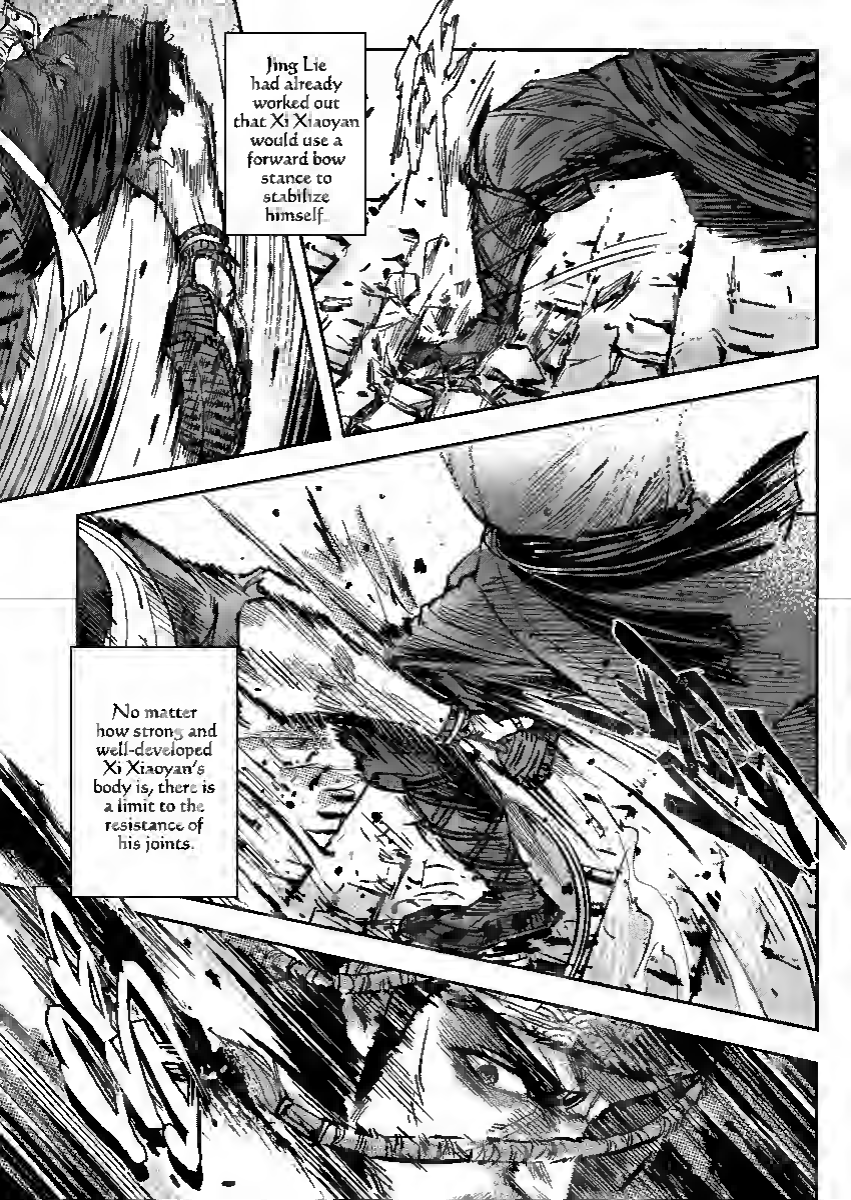
The arbitrary combatants were unable to use their swordsmanship and reduced to primitive fighting like that of wild bulls.

If this keeps up, it will become a contest of pure physical strength!
PANT...

Both of their strength is closely matched

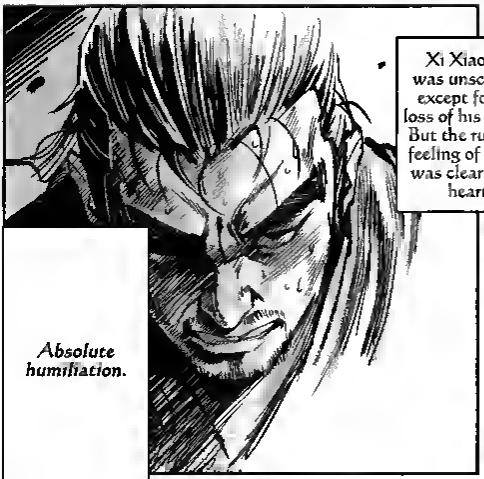
PANT...
PANT...

Using Xi Xiaoyan's forward momentum, Jing Lie jerked his right wrist!
The moment Xi Xiaoyan moved, Jing Lie had already anticipated his intent.


Jing Lie had already worked out that Xi Xiaoyan would use a forward bow stance to stabilize himself.
No matter how strong and well-developed Xi Xiaoyan's body is, there is a limit to the resistance of his joints.

Although Ying Hua Guan was only 2 stories high, when the force of Jing Lie's throw was taken into account, Xi Xiaoyan would be at least gravely injured if not dead upon hitting the ground!
YOU CAN'T ALWAYS HAVE IT EASY.

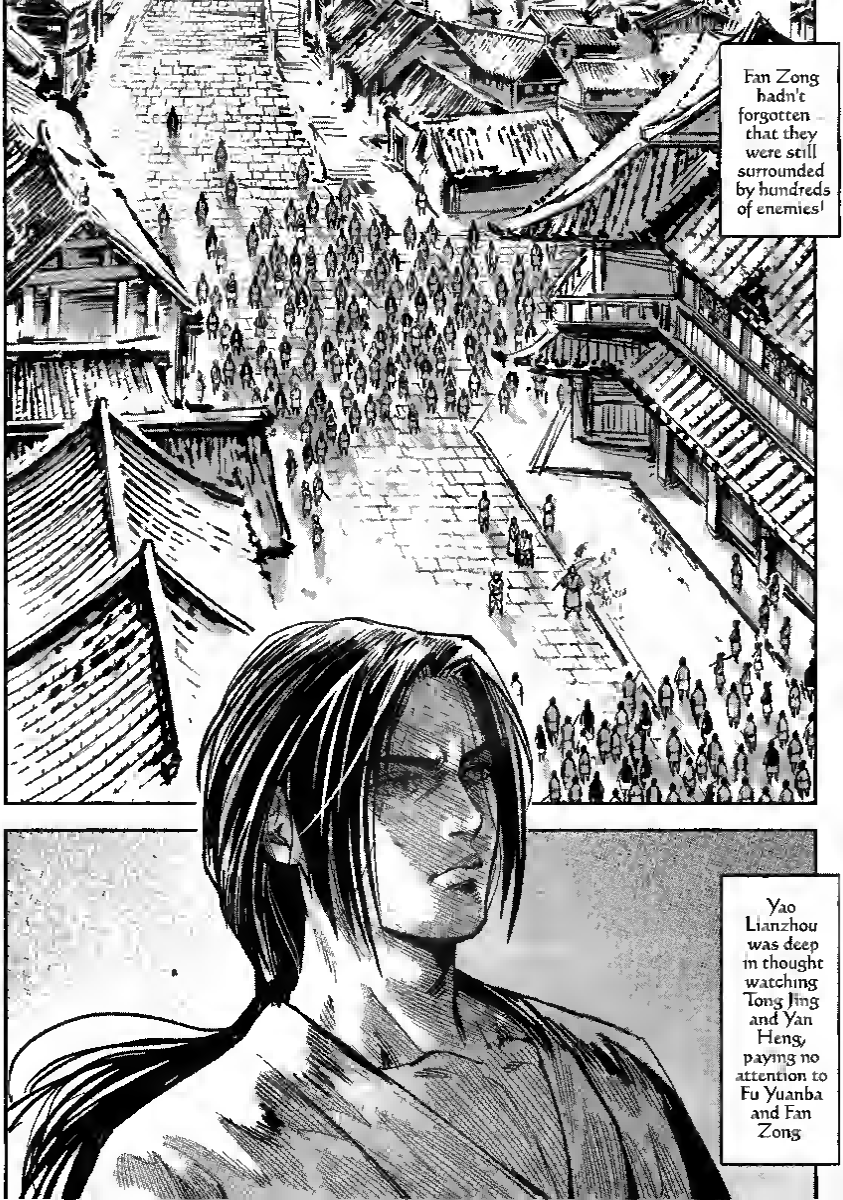
TL/N: IT'S AN IDIOM.

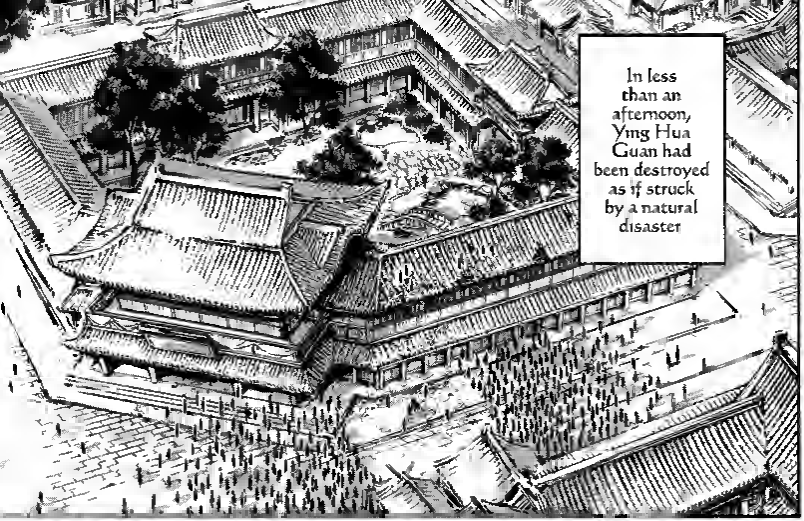


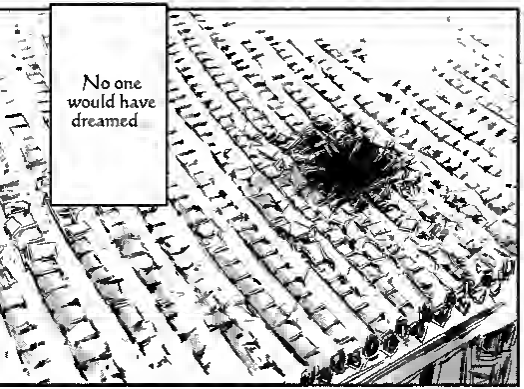
Xi Xiaoyan was unscathed except for the loss of his sword But the ruthless feeling of defeat was clear in his heart

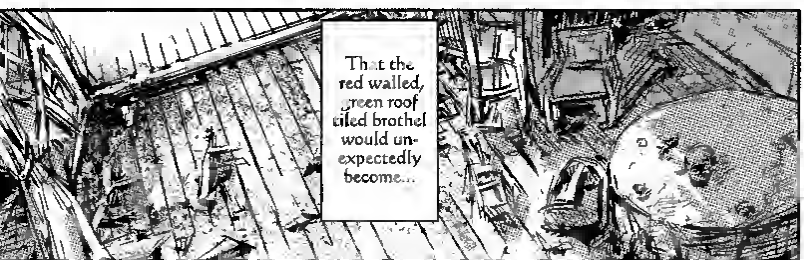
Absolute humiliation.

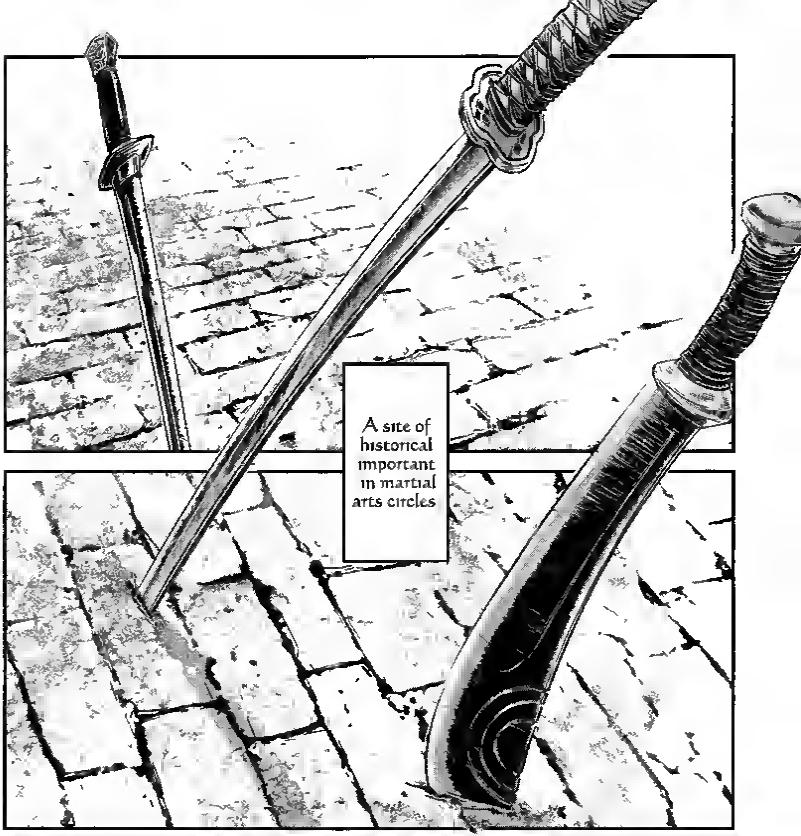
Not having actually subdued the Yangji Sword technique, Jing Lie felt that it wasn't a completely true victory.
Also, Xi Xiaoyan was still alive
WANT A REMATCH?
HEADMASTER, PLEASE ALLOW TONG LIANG AND I TO FIGHT TOO!
But to Xi Xiaoyan, those words struck him with ridicule and provocation
KILLING THE "HUNTER" IS IMPORTANT, BUT NOT AS IMPORTANT AS PROTECTING HEADMASTER.
LET'S NOT GET CARRIED AWAY.


Fan Zong hadn't forgotten that they were still surrounded by hundreds of enemies!
Yao Lianzhou was deep in thought watching Tong Jing and Yan Heng, paying no attention to Fu Yuanba and Fan Zong


In less than an afternoon, Ying Hua Guan had been destroyed as if struck by a natural disaster


No one would have dreamed


That the red walled, green roof tiled brothel would unexpectedly become...



And the situation took a drastic change at this point...

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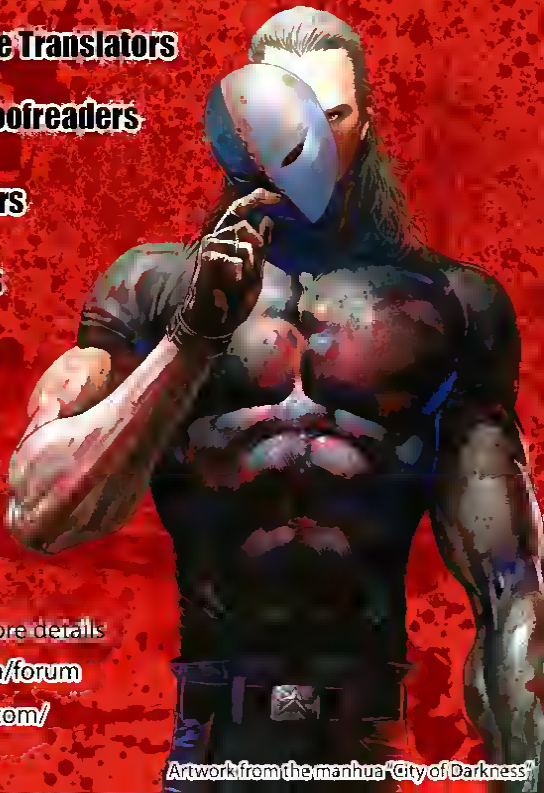

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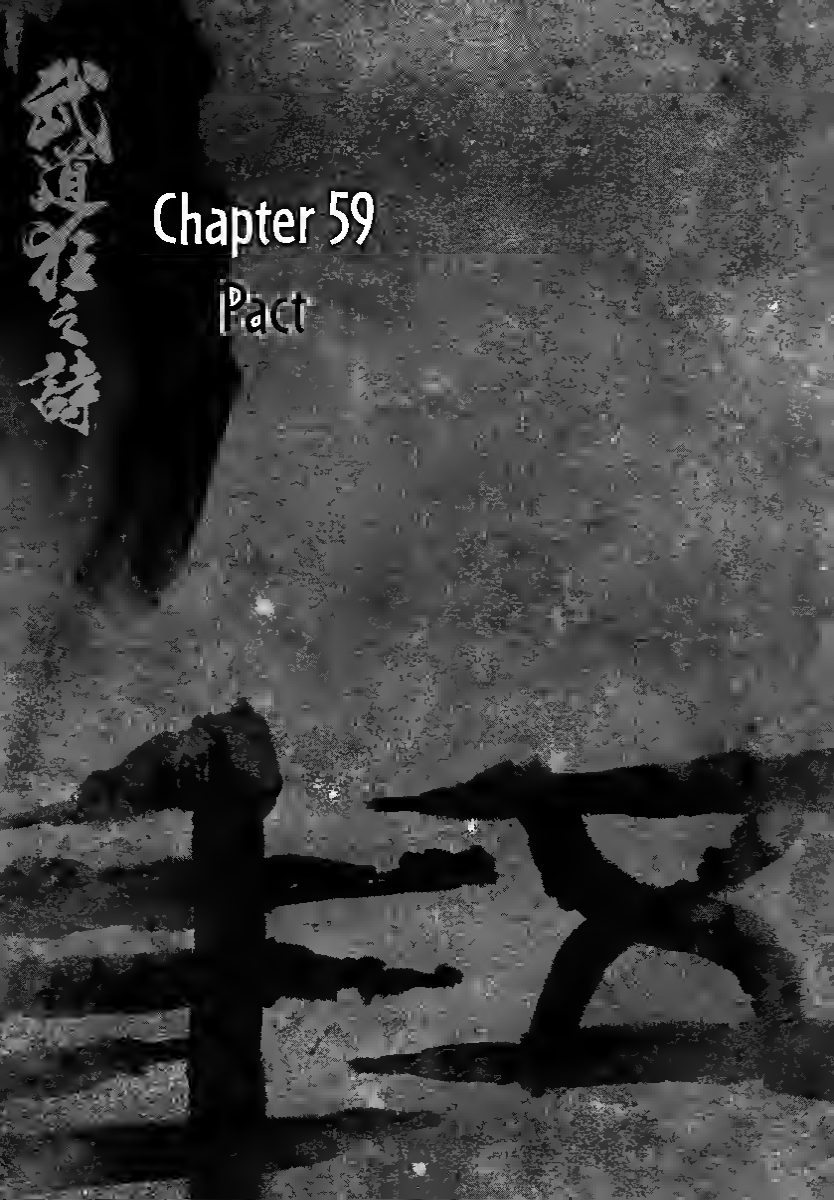

武道家之詩
Chapter 59
Pact

THE WEST ARMY IS HERE!
IS IT THE WEST ARMY?
BUT I DON'T SEE YIN YINGCHUAN . . .

SENIOR JIANG!
WHY IS HE HERE...
ISN'T SENIOR JIANG WITH THE SICHUAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE?
COULD IT BE THE WEST ARMY HAD BEEN ELIMINATED BY THESE FRESH WUDANG TROOPS?
CURSES... SO THEY ARE FROM WUDANG!
Some spectators are beginning to regret being stupid enough to come all the way to Xian for this display. They could have died just like this

WHAT ABOUT DANLEI...
I'M SORRY FOR COMING LATE.
SENIOR GUI WAS MOBBED AND INJURED BY THE ENEMIES, BUT FORTUNATELY HIS LIFE IS NOT IN ANY DANGER.
Looks like the headmaster suffered some internal injuries. Was it a surprise attack...?
I SEE.
JING LIE! I KNEW I WOULD RUN INTO YOU HERE AGAIN!

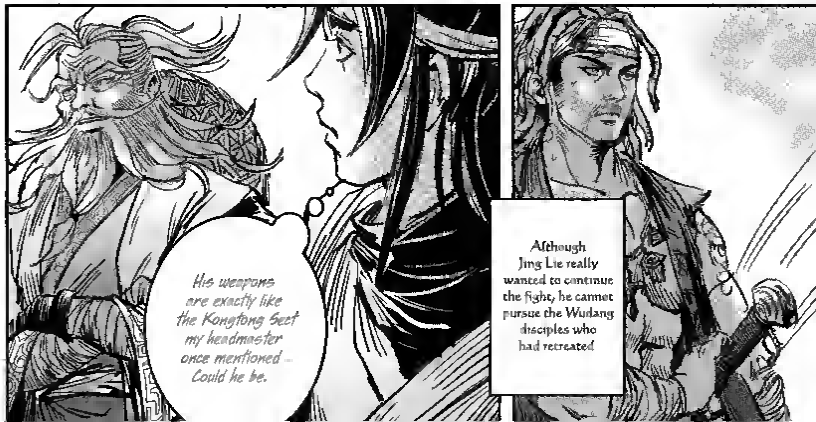
HEADMASTER, SINCE SENIOR JIANG IS HERE, PLEASE ALLOW US TO ASSIST AT THE ROOFTOP!
Wudang has gained backup which evened the numbers with their enemies
With their worries about protecting the headmaster dispelled, Fu Yuanba and Tang Liang are ready to fight
Jing Lie and Hu Linglan remembered the grief for their dead Emei Style friends

To the other smaller sects and the sects that came from afar, this moment is just like being in a dream
The approaching party is none other than a sect ranked even higher than the Wudang among the "Nine Greatest Sects"
And there is only one such sect in this world

Seven men of the infamous "18 Bronzemen Formation" are walking the streets of Dacha, the city east of Xian.
The Shaolin Sect!

LET'S GO DOWN FIRST.
In this world, there is no other Sect that could put the Wudang on their guard.

LET'S GO!
JING LIE.
I WILL REMEMBER YOUR NAME.


His weapons are exactly like the Kongtong Sect my headmaster once mentioned - Could he be.
Although Jing Lie really wanted to continue the fight, he cannot pursue the Wudang disciples who had retreated

KID, DO NOT SPEAK OF HE ZHISHENG IN FRONT OF ME!
I AM YAN HENG FROM THE QING-CHENG SECT. I HAVE HEARD OF YOU FROM MY SENIORS...
THANK YOU FOR LENDING A HAND!
When Lian Feihong laid eyes upon Yan Heng, he recalled his embarrassing defeat at the hands of He Zhisheng and is displeased
Twenty years ago before He Zhisheng became the headmaster, even though he did not have the "Dragon Spine" and "Tiger Ward" swords, he had learnt the "Male Female Dragon Tiger Sword" techniques with a long and short blade that resembled those
...We are just friends. She's learning swordsmanship from me..
Relationship? What relationship... She's Tong Jing...
WHAT IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP.. WITH THIS GIRL?

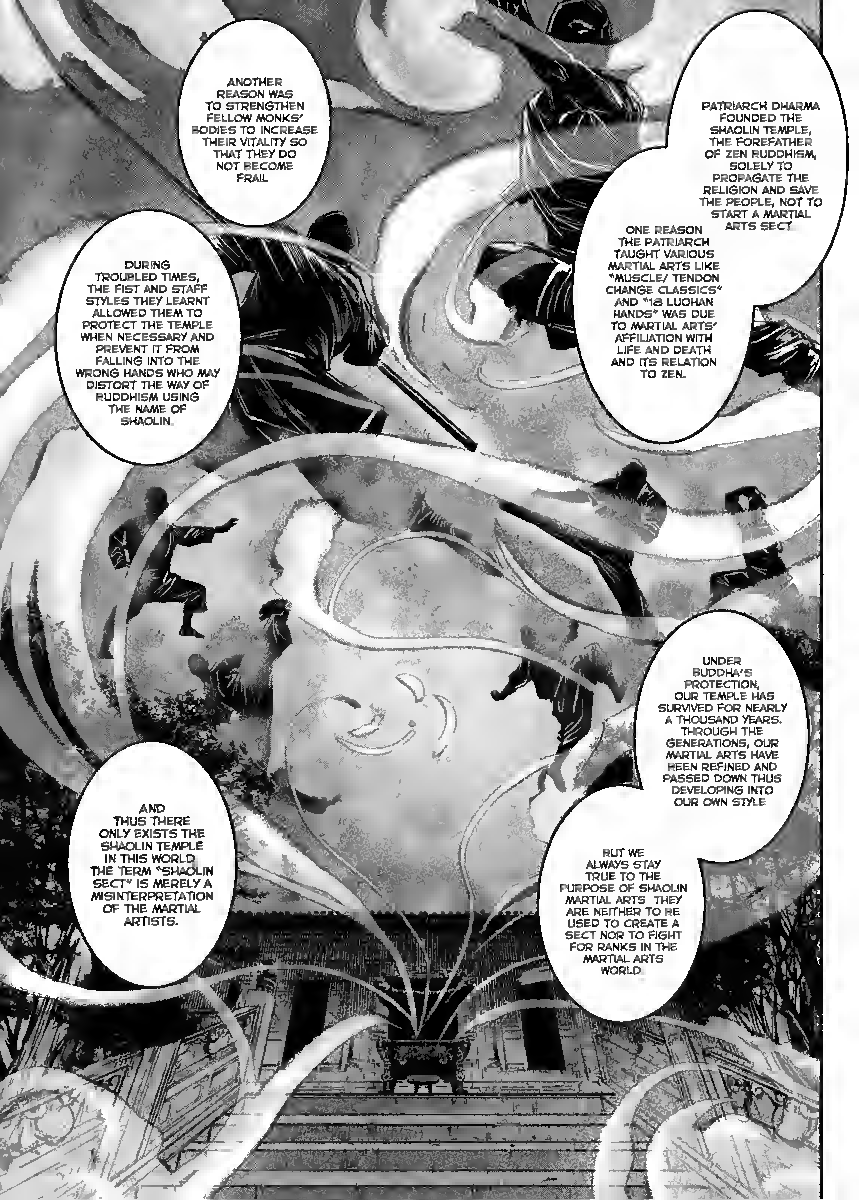
YOU'RE LATE!
THEN ARE YOU HER MASTER?
ARE YOU MENTORING HER? NO WAY!
YES ...
NO.. NOT REALLY ..! SHE DOESN'T HAVE A MASTER NOW!
EXCELLENT!
T/N: SHAOLIN TEMPLE IS LOCATED AT SHAOSHI MOUNTAIN
EVENTUALLY... THE PEOPLE FROM SHAOSHI MOUNTAIN FOUND ME.
I WAS RUSHING OVER BEFORE, BUT I GOT LOST...
SORRY. LOOKS LIKE YOU WERE IN A BIG FIGHT, BUT I COULDN'T COME TO HELP OUT...

The elderly man is undoubtedly a chief figure of Shaolin. However, even with martial arts that surpass others, there is no way he would fight at this age.
I AM LIAO CHENG.

WHY DID THE SHAOLIN TEMPLE SEND A CIVIL MONK TO INTERVENE IN THIS MARTIAL ARTS FIGHT ...?
AH, I KNOW HIM! HE'S THE CIVIL MONK ELDER FROM SHAOLIN...
Not every monk in the Shaolin Temple has the potential for martial arts. And they are known as "Civil Monks"
I BELIEVE YOU ARE HEADMASTER YAO OF THE WUDANG SECT?
I NEVER THOUGHT THAT I WOULD HAVE TO FIGHT WITH THE "WORLD STRONGEST SECT" SO SOON. BUT IF YOU WISH TO FIGHT TODAY, BRING IT ON!
HEADMASTER YAO, YOU ARE MISTAKEN.
I MERELY BROUGHT SEVERAL DISCIPLES ALONG TO HELP SEARCH FOR THIS ONE WHO LEFT THE MOUNTAIN OF HIS OWN ACCORD

HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT? THE WUDANG SECT IS RELENTLESSLY KILLING BY ATTACKING AND ELIMINATING VARIOUS SECTS!
WE FORMED AN ALLIANCE IN THE NAME OF JUSTICE! HOW CAN THE SHAOLIN SECT, THE RESPECTED HEAD FIGURE OF THE MARTIAL ARTS WORLD, SIMPLY STAND BY?!
The warriors had thought that Shaolin came to lend a hand. Never did they expect that Liao Cheng would immediately declare to be a non-combatant, much to their distress
GREAT SENIOR, THEY ARE RIGHT! IT IS OBVIOUS THAT WUDANG SECT WANTS TO REIGN OVER THE MARTIAL ARTS WORLD!
IF WE DON'T COOPERATE WITH THE OTHER SECTS NOW, IT WILL BE TOO LATE WHEN WUDANG ATTACKS SHAOSHI MOUNTAIN IN THE FUTURE!
YOUR MOTIVE FOR DOING SO IS BECAUSE YOU WORRY FOR THE FUTURE OF THE SHAOLIN TEMPLE. I UNDERSTAND YOUR WILLINGNESS TO SACRIFICE YOURSELF.
WHETHER YOU KILL DISCIPLES OF WUDANG OR YOU YOURSELF ARE KILLED, THERE WILL BE BLOOD FEUD BETWEEN SHAOLIN AND WUDANG. AT THAT POINT WE CAN NO LONGER STAY ON THE SIDELINES, IS THAT NOT SO?
YUAN
XING, I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING. THE REASON YOU SECRETLY LEFT THE MOUNTAIN TO FIGHT WITH WUDANG...

Shaolin Temple.

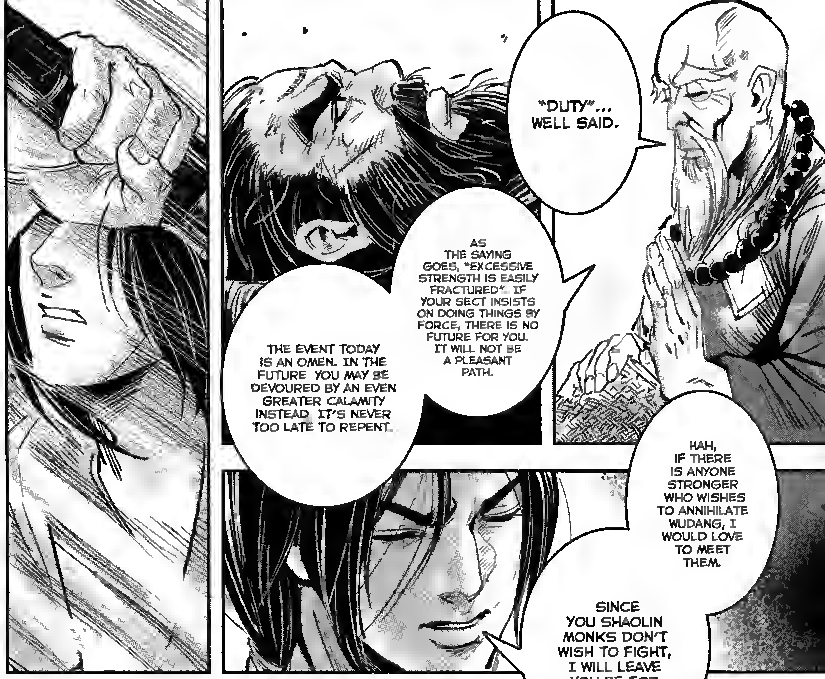

PATRIARCH DHARMA FOUNDED THE SHAOLIN TEMPLE, THE FOREFATHER OF ZEN BUDDHISM, SOLELY TO PROPAGATE THE RELIGION AND SAVE THE PEOPLE, NOT TO START A MARTIAL ARTS SECT.
ONE REASON THE PATRIARCH TAUGHT VARIOUS MARTIAL ARTS LIKE "MUSCLE/ TENDON CHANGE CLASSICS" AND "18 LUOHAN HANDS" WAS DUE TO MARTIAL ARTS' AFFILIATION WITH LIFE AND DEATH AND ITS RELATION TO ZEN.
ANOTHER REASON WAS TO STRENGTHEN FELLOW MONKS' BODIES TO INCREASE THEIR VITALITY SO THAT THEY DO NOT BECOME FRAIL
DURING TROUBLED TIMES, THE FIST AND STAFF STYLES THEY LEARNT ALLOWED THEM TO PROTECT THE TEMPLE WHEN NECESSARY AND PREVENT IT FROM FALLING INTO THE WRONG HANDS WHO MAY DISTORT THE WAY OF BUDDHISM USING THE NAME OF SHAOLIN.
UNDER BUDDHA'S PROTECTION, OUR TEMPLE HAS SURVIVED FOR NEARLY A THOUSAND YEARS. THROUGH THE GENERATIONS, OUR MARTIAL ARTS HAVE BEEN REFINED AND PASSED DOWN THUS DEVELOPING INTO OUR OWN STYLE
BUT WE ALWAYS STAY TRUE TO THE PURPOSE OF SHAOLIN MARTIAL ARTS. THEY ARE NEITHER TO BE USED TO CREATE A SECT NOR TO FIGHT FOR RANKS IN THE MARTIAL ARTS WORLD.
AND THUS THERE ONLY EXISTS THE SHAOLIN TEMPLE IN THIS WORLD. THE TERM "SHAOLIN SECT" IS MERELY A MISINTERPRETATION OF THE MARTIAL ARTISTS.

THAT'S ABOUT IT.
IN SHORT, YOU ARE MERELY STATING THAT SHAOLIN WILL NOT FIGHT US.
WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME SO MUCH CRAP?
WHETHER YOU FIGHT IS NOT A ONE-SIDED DECISION
THAT IS JUST HOW BATTLES ARE LIKE.

NO MATTER HOW OUR MONKS MASTERED OUR PRACTICE, WE WILL NOT CONCEDE WILLINGLY
UNTIL THEN, WE WILL KEEP YOU COMPANY TO THE VERY END!
IF THERE COMES A DAY YOUR SECT ASCENDS SHAOSHI MOUNTAIN TO ANNIHILATE SHAOLIN, I SUPPOSE IT CAN'T BE HELPED THEN
HOWEVER ...
Although Liao Cheng did not learn a single piece of martial arts, he stated his point with an aura that is not inferior to Yao Lianzhou's.
IS THIS SIMPLY YOUR OWN OPINION? OR IS THIS A UNANIMOUS BELIEF?
Master Liao Cheng is an elder of the Shaolin Temple and senior to the current temple abbot, Master Benfu. He is highly respected and his words are sufficient to represent Shaolin.
IF IT IS ONLY YOUR OWN THOUGHTS, THEN IT'S NOT STRANGE FOR YOU AS A NON-MARTIAL ARTIST TO BELIEVE IN SUCH ABSURDITY .
AS LONG AS WUDANG DOES NOT INTERFERE WITH SHAOLIN TEMPLE, NONE OF THE MONKS WILL BREAK OUR ANCESTOR'S DECREE THAT WE SHALL NOT FIGHT COMPETITIVELY

DIDN'T ANY OF YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT IT MEANT TO LEARN MARTIAL ARTS WHEN YOU TOOK UP YOUR WEAPONS?
IS BECOMING STRONGER THAN THE REST NOT THE REASON TO LEARN MARTIAL ARTS? SAYING THAT YOU REFUSE TO FIGHT IS COMPLETELY LUDICROUS!
SO THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO SHAOLIN TEMPLE, THE "STRONGEST SECT". HOW FUNNY.
It appears as if Yao Lianzhou's proclamation is directed not only at the Shaolin monks, but also at all the martial artists around
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN SHAOLIN TEMPLE SHOULDN'T HAVE PRACTICED MARTIAL ARTS FROM THE BEGINNING AND JUST STUCK TO MEDITATING.
WE, THE WUDANG SECT, HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO INTEREST IN MEDDLING WITH A BROKEN DOWN TEMPLE THAT ONLY KNOWS KNOW TO CHANT AND PREACH.
THE REST OF YOU ARE ALL PATHETIC. SOMEONE STRONGER THAN YOU APPEARS,
BUT OLD MONK, YOU SAID YOU WILL FIGHT US HEAD-TO-HEAD IF WE ARRIVE AT THE TEMPLE GATES THAT'S MORE LIKE IT
AND YOU'RE YAMMERING ABOUT "JUSTICE"? ARE YOU NOT ASHAMED?

BESIDES TAKING ADVANTAGE OF YOUR NUMBERS TO GANG UP ON ME,
YOU RESORT TO USING A LOWLY, DIRTY PLOY TO TAKE ME DOWN... WHY DO YOU EVEN LEARN MARTIAL ARTS?
Dai Kui, Deng Sanqiao and those who knew about the poisoning felt mortified by Yao Lianzhou's words
ONLY THOSE FEW, INCLUDING THAT JING LIE MAN AND QING-CHENG SECT KID, HAVE SOME BACKBONE
I'VE STATED THAT THIS TIME WE MERELY JOURNEYED TO SEARCH FOR OUR STUDENT. WE DO NOT WISH TO GET INVOLVED IN AN ARGUMENT WITH HEADMASTER YAO EITHER
IT MAY BE AN ILLUSION TO YOU.
BUT, ALLOW ME A FEW WORDS TO YOUR SECT. "BEING INVINCIBLE" AND "REIGNING THE MARTIAL ARTS WORLD" ARE MERELY ILLUSIONS BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH. WHY PURSUE IT SO RELENTLESSLY?
BUT TO US MARTIAL ARTISTS, IT IS AN ETERNAL DUTY.


"DUTY"... WELL SAID.
AS THE SAYING GOES, "EXCESSIVE STRENGTH IS EASILY FRACTURED". IF YOUR SECT INSISTS ON DOING THINGS BY FORCE, THERE IS NO FUTURE FOR YOU. IT WILL NOT BE A PLEASANT PATH.
THE EVENT TODAY IS AN OMEN. IN THE FUTURE YOU MAY BE DEVOURED BY AN EVEN GREATER CALAMITY INSTEAD. IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO REPENT.
HAH, IF THERE IS ANYONE STRONGER WHO WISHES TO ANNIHILATE WUDANG, I WOULD LOVE TO MEET THEM.
SINCE YOU SHAOLIN MONKS DON'T WISH TO FIGHT, I WILL LEAVE YOU BE FOR NOW.

I REMAINED IN XIAN BECAUSE I WANTED TO DEFEAT YOU ALL IN ONE GO, BUT I'VE COME TO UNDERSTAND SOMETHING CLEARLY TODAY...
NOW IT'S YOUR TURN.

If the Shaolin monks stayed out of the fight, all the martial artists have absolutely no chance of winning against the several dozens of Wudang disciples.

You are too weak!
THERE IS NO MEANING TO US, THE WUDANG SECT, IF WE ANNIHILATE ALL OF YOU NOW.
HENCEFORTH, I MAKE THIS PLEDGE TO YOU.
THE WUDANG SECT WILL CEASE HOSTILITY FOR THE TIME BEING, FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS.
I'LL GIVE YOU FIVE YEARS TO BECOME AS STRONG AS POSSIBLE.

AFTER FIVE YEARS, WE WILL COME AGAIN. BY THEN, YOU HAD BETTER PUT UP A BETTER FIGHT!
IF YOU ARE AWARE THAT YOU CAN NEVER OVERCOME WUDANG, THEN USE THESE FEW YEARS TO CLOSE YOUR LOUSY SECTS AND RETIRE FROM THE MARTIAL ARTS WORLD
OR YOU CAN SURRENDER LIKE THE EMEI SECT AND BECOME WUDANG'S BRANCH TRAINING GROUND.
Even the Wudang disciples are surprised at Yao Lianzhou's decision.
Wudang's laws are few and simple, but the headmaster's words are absolute. There are no grounds to dispute

HUNTER, YOUR NAME IS JING LIE, CORRECT? AND THE QING-CHENG SECT KID, IF I RECALL CORRECTLY, YOU ARE YAN HENG?
ALSO...
THIS PLEDGE APPLIES TO YOU TOO.
I'M TONG JING!
AND SHE'S THE GREATEST FEMALE WARRIOR FROM JAPAN/ ALSO KNOWN AS...
"ONE-HIT-KILL" AND "HUGE BLADE HEROINE", HU LINGLAN OF THE SHIMAZU CLAN!
They can walk around freely like men... and protect themselves and their friends with swords and blades...
Why can't I be like them...?

YAN HENG, I KNOW YOU DON'T WANT MY MERCY. I WOULDN'T EITHER IF I WERE IN YOUR POSITION
BUT YOU ARE INTERESTING I REALLY WANT TO SEE HOW MUCH YOU WILL IMPROVE IN THE FUTURE.
BRING YOUR BLOOD FEUD TO US IN FIVE YEARS, WE WILL DEFINITELY TAKE YOU ON
JING LIE, YOU REALLY WANT TO DEFEAT THE WUDANG SECT, DON'T YOU? I HEARD THAT YOU ARE FROM THE NANHAI HUZUN SECT
YOU WOULDN'T REMEMBER THAT.
YOU ARE WRONG.

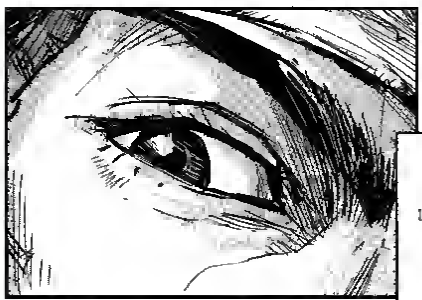
I REMEMBER EVERY SECT THAT WAS ANNIHILATED OR TAKEN IN BY THE WUDANG.
ESPECIALLY ONE THAT WAS ELIMINATED FOR DARING TO RETALIATE AGAINST US
NANHAI HUZUN SECT FROM QUANZHOU, FUJIAN. A PUNY SECT THAT WE UTTERLY CRUSHED WITH JUST A FINGER.
YOUR DESIRE TO DEFEAT WUDANG SECT IS NOT PURELY FOR REVENGE. ISN'T THAT SO?
IT'S NOT. IT ALSO BECAUSE YOU WANT TO BECOME STRONGER?

TO HAVE COME THIS FAR DESPITE ORIGINATING FROM THAT KIND OF SECT... YOU MUST HAVE WORKED TIRELESSLY.
BUT IT IS STILL TOO SOON FOR YOU TO DEFEAT THE WUDANG SECT.
AT THE VERY LEAST, YOU ARE STILL NOT QUALIFIED TO STAND AGAINST ME.

AMONG ALL THE ENEMIES I HAVE ENCOUNTERED SO FAR YOUR THOUGHTS RESEMBLE WUDANG SECT THE MOST.
IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR THE BLOOD FEUD BETWEEN US, YOU WOULD BE THE ENEMY I'D WANT TO SUBDUE THE MOST.
WHAT A PITY.

I WILL NOT ATTACK YOU DURING THESE FIVE YEARS
SHOW ME HOW FAR CAN YOU GO WALKING THIS PATH ON YOUR OWN.

Jing Lie had always harboured a strong animosity towards Wudang. But at this moment, he couldn't help but feel touched at Yao Lianzhou's words
Desperately becoming stronger, challenging and killing his opponents to prove his strength.
The nature of Jing Lie, the "Wudang Hunter", is not much different from that of the Wudang Sect.



I AM NOT ALONE!

I WILL LEAVE MY ROBE WITH HER.
IT WILL SERVE AS A SYMBOL OF OUR FIVE-YEAR PACT.

Yao Lianzhou is not entirely convinced that he made the right judgment about Tong Jing
After all, she's still an inexperienced girl
That terrifying potential could be a one-off surge that will never occur again
It all boils down to her fate...

These five years are actually a gift to her too.

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武道伝説
Chapter 60
Unshaken Conviction

SISTER, HEADMASTER YAO HAS PROMISED TO TAKE ME ALONG, WHY DON'T YOU COME ALONG TOO?
HE... IS NOT THE ONE I AM WAITING FOR.
SISTER ...

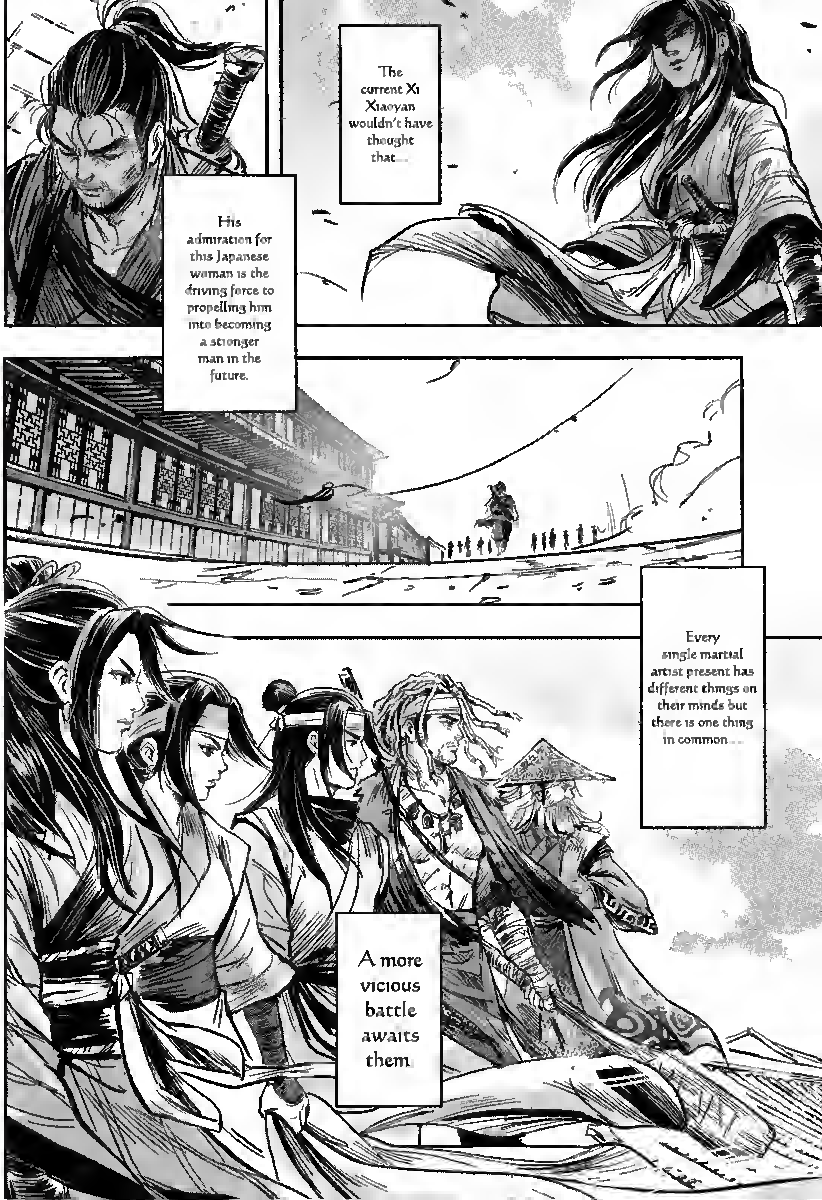
A MAN LIKE HIM ALREADY HAS SOMETHING ELSE IN THE MOST IMPORTANT PLACE OF HIS HEART...
XIAOYAN, IF YOU WANT TO BE WITH HIM...
THEN YOU MUST BE PREPARED FOR THAT

IS THE MAN WITH THE SURNAME IS YAN, IS HE FROM XINYI SECT?
YES,
BUT HIS OPINION DOESN'T REPRESENT THE XINYI SECT...
I DON'T WISH TO WASTE ANY ENERGY IN PURSUING THE POISON MATTER
I ONLY HOPE THAT YOU WILL TAKE CARE OF MISS SHUQIAO UNTIL SHE RECOVERS.

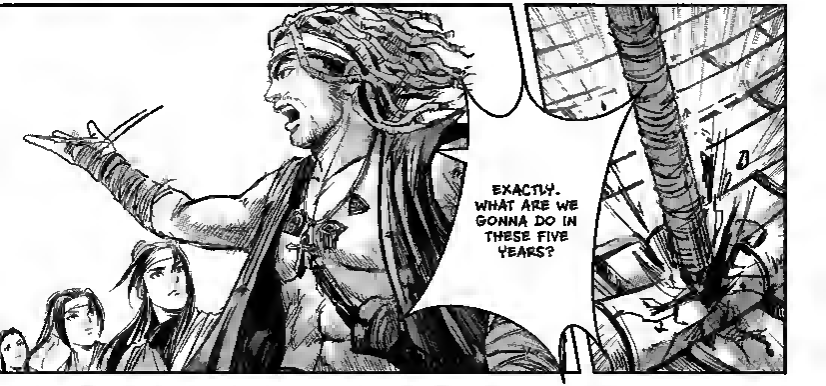
IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO HER, I WILL BREAK THE PACT AND ATTACK ONLY THE SHANXI XINYI SECT.
THREATS FROM WUDANG SECT ARE UNNECESSARY. THIS LADY CAME TO HARM BECAUSE OF OUR SECT, WE WILL TAKE GOOD CARE OF HER.
DAMN T HAT YAN QINGTONG BASTARD ...

I HAVE PREPARED CARTS AND HORSES OUTSIDE THE CITY. I SUGGEST LEAVING THE CITY NOW AND TRAVELING TO THE NEXT TOWN THROUGH THE NIGHT.
HEADMASTER, IF WE SPEND THE NIGHT IN THIS CITY, WHO KNOWS WHAT KIND OF DEBAUCHERY THIS LOT MIGHT RESORT TO.
HMPH, WHAT'S SO FRIGHTENING ABOUT THEM?
VERY WELL. LET'S GO.
HE SHOULD BE ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE CITY
THERE'S ANOTHER COMRADE OF YOURS I DIDN'T KILL HIM.
NO NEED TO THANK ME. JUST SEND SOMEONE TO GET HIM
.....

The thought of having had to wait for five years to take his revenge on Jing Lie nearly drove Xi Xianyan mad.
Brother, I will heed your advice and become a martial artist without any weakness
Five years in the future... Would I really see her again?


The current Xi Xiaoyan wouldn't have thought that...
His admiration for this Japanese woman is the driving force to propelling him into becoming a stronger man in the future.
Every single martial artist present has different things on their minds but there is one thing in common...
A more vicious battle awaits them.

NOW THAT WE HAVE CREATED AN EVEN GREATER BLOOD FEUD, IT WILL BE HARDER TO NEGOTIATE WITH WUDANG NEXT TIME...
DO WE JUST SIT AROUND AND LET WUDANG MAKE A COMEBACK IN FIVE YEARS?
IT'S ALL THAT YAN QINGTONG'S DAMN IDEA...
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
The martial artists on the streets are still terrified and worried even though there's no need for them to fight the Wudang Sect.


EXACTLY. WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO IN THESE FIVE YEARS?

I HAVE.
HMPH, DO YOU MEAN YOU'VE ALREADY THOUGHT OF SOMETHING?

IF EACH SECT STOPPED EXERCISING SECRECY IN THEIR ARTS FROM HERE ON,
AND PUTS ASIDE THEIR PAROCHIAL PREJUDICE TO SHARE KEY POINTS AND TECHNIQUES BETWEEN MARTIAL ARTS STYLES TO STRENGTHEN THEMSELVES,
THERE'S NO WAY WE WON'T BE ABLE TO PUT UP A FIGHT AGAINST WUDANG IN FIVE YEARS
This unorthodox idea has been in Jing Lie's mind for a long time
He hoped to use the Wudang calamity to make the martial artists put aside their differences and unite against a common enemy
THE REASON SECTS ARE ABLE TO THRIVE IS THROUGH THE SECRET TECHNIQUES AND MENTAL APPROACHES THAT WE DO NOT DIVULGE TO OUTSIDERS SO EASILY.
THAT WOULDN'T DO!
OTHERWISE, ISN'T THAT DESTROYING THE FOUNDATION THAT OUR PREDECESSORS HAD BUILT UP?
WOULD THE BIGGER SECTS BE STUPID ENOUGH TO EXCHANGE THEIR ULTIMATE TECHNIQUES WITH THE CHILD'S PLAY FROM THE SMALLER SECTS?
THAT'S RIGHT WHO WOULD CARE FOR SUCH A BAD DEAL?
But if everyone chooses to close themselves off to preserve their identity and not seek progress.. aren't we going to repeat the tragedy today five years later?
IF EACH SECT HAS SIMILARITIES WITH ONE ANOTHER THE SECTS WILL NOT BE DISTINGUISHABLE IN THE FUTURE.
HOW'S THAT ANY DIFFERENT THAN SUBMITTING TO WUDANG? WE MIGHT AS WELL SURRENDER TO THEM.

A BUNCH OF LUNATICS!
NO WONDER YAO LIANZHOU SAID THAT YOUR WAY OF THINKING IS SIMILAR TO WUDANG!
A true Hero is always considered a lunatic by the common folk whose minds have become rigid

But their resolution remains unshaken.

Those violent fights felt surreal in the eyes of a normal civil officer, but it is clear to him who is the stronger party
LOOKS LIKE... THE WUDANG SECT IS STILL THE STRONGEST ...
Li Junyuan, the trusted aide of the prince of Ning, patiently watched everything that had transpired at the Ying Hua Inn that whole afternoon.

BUT TO MAKE THIS BUNCH OF LUNATICS SUBMIT TO US IS INDEED NO EASY MATTER ...
IS MR. LI THINKING THAT IF WE ARE ABLE TO TAKE THE WUDANG SECT IN, IT WILL BE EQUAL TO HAVING A GODLY TROOP THAT WILL PERFORM MIRACULOUS DEEDS IN THE FUTURE?

THE MOST INTERESTING IS THIS GROUP. TO BE ABLE TO FIGHT ON PAR WITH THE WUDANG WITHOUT ANY SUPPORT... THEY ARE MOST LIKELY THE MOST USEFUL ONES
NOT NECESSARILY. AS LONG AS THIS BATTLE REMAINS UNFINISHED, THERE WILL BE OPPORTUNITIES IN THE FUTURE.

EVEN IF THEY TRAVEL ACROSS STATES AND DISTRICTS, REQUEST MASTER QIAN TO MAKE USE OF HIS CONNECTIONS WITH THE IMPERIAL MILITARY SECRET POLICE TO MONITOR THEM.
MASTER WANG, I WILL RETURN TO NAN CHANG TOMORROW AND REPORT TO THE SIRE AND MY FATHER
PLEASE COMMAND YOUR SUBORDINATES TO CONTINUE TAILING THEM.
THE SIRE WILL REWARD YOU HEFTILY.
REST ASSURED, MR LI. I WILL DO SO IMMEDIATELY

Before long, the world will become more chaotic than the martial arts society. However, both are fighting over the same thing.
Ambition and power

NOT YET. WHAT IS IT?
LINGLAN ARE YOU ASLEEP?
I THINK... THAT MAN WITH THE WEIRD ARM FROM WUDANG HAS A CRUSH ON YOU.

ARE YOU KIDDING?
IT'S SO OBVIOUS... THE WAY HE LOOKED AT YOU... IS WEIRD.
THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE ...
TOO BAD WE HAVE SUCH COMPLICATED BLOOD FEUD WITH WUDANG,
AND EVERYONE KNOWS THAT THE ONE YOU LIKE IS JING LIE!

IT IS OBVIOUS TO EVERYONE IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE IT, YOU CAN ASK YAN HENG
I'M BEAT FROM FIGHTING ALL DAY! STUFF IT!
I... I NEED TO GET SOME FRESH AIR. YOU SHOULD SLEEP FIRST.
Actually ...
Isn't there also a complicated grudge between Jing Lie and I...?

棧客門牌

JING LIE... DO YOU THINK THAT I DID THE RIGHT THING?
AM I TOO SOFT-HEARTED?
IN THE END... I STILL DIDN'T BRING MYSELF TO ATTACK FAN ZONG AND YAO LIANZHOU...

YOU HAVE TO DECIDE FOR YOURSELF WHETHER YOU DID THE RIGHT THING.
DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT HEADMASTER HE WOULD DO THE SAME THING TOO...
DON'T MESS AROUND WITH ME LIKE THIS!
I'M ASKING ABOUT YOUR OPINION! CAN'T YOU ANSWER ME IN A SIMPLE MANNER?
NOW GIVE ME AN HONEST ANSWER!

ALRIGHT THEN, HERE'S MY ANSWER.
This guy... has matured.
I SAW YOUR MASTER'S FACE
HE'S SMILING AT YOU.

I...
I REALLY WISH MY MASTER CAN SEE THE CURRENT ME...
HE SAW YOU. TRUST ME.
I ALSO KNOW THAT HE WISHES TO SEE THE FUTURE YOU EVEN MORE.

THEN LET'S ATTACK THE WUDANG MOUNTAIN TOMORROW!
PRACTICE IS A BATTLE. I NEVER WANTED TO ACCEPT THIS CEASE-FIRE PACT TO BEGIN WITH.
THE FUTURE ME...
BUT WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO NOW. WE CAN'T FIGHT ANYONE FROM WUDANG FOR THESE FIVE YEARS.
WE CAN TRAVEL AND PRACTICE DURING THIS PEACEFUL PERIOD AND I CAN TEACH YOU MORE THINGS.
MAYBE A TRUCE ISN'T SO BAD AFTER ALL
WHEN I MET YAO LIANZHOU TODAY...
IT WAS THEN THAT I BECAME FULLY AWARE OF THE DIFFICULTY OF THE PATH AHEAD OF ME.

MY DECEASED SENIOR SAID SOMETHING THAT I STILL REMEMBER TILL THIS DAY...
MEN ARE LIKE BLADES STRENGTHENED THROUGH RAGING FLAMES AND BEATINGS.
HE SAID THAT "THE THINGS WORTH DOING IN THIS WORLD ARE NEVER EASY".
THAT'S RIGHT. TONG JING REMINDED ME OF SOMETHING IMPORTANT TODAY. YOU KNOW MANY THINGS ABOUT ME,
THIS SENIOR MUST HAVE BEEN A GREAT INFLUENCE IN YOUR LIFE.
BUT YOU NEVER TOLD ME ANYTHING ABOUT YOUR PAST. THIS IS SO UNFAIR.
YEAH.

THE NIGHT IS STILL LONG.
ALRIGHT THEN.
I'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING.

IT HAPPENED WHEN I WAS FIFTEEN.

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